

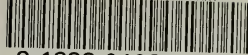


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HISTORY  
OF  
DECATUR COUNTY,  
IOWA

AND ITS PEOPLE

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*Prof. J. M. Howell & Herman C. Smith*

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VOLUME II

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CHICAGO  
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V. R. MCGINNIS

# BIOGRAPHICAL

## V. R. McGINNIS.

V. R. McGinnis, of Leon, whose ability as a lawyer has raised him to the first rank at the bar of southern Iowa, is also known throughout the state for his political activity, as he is one of the recognized leaders of the democratic party. His birth occurred on the 24th of May, 1861, in Muskingum county, Ohio, and he is a son of Daniel and Hannah (Miller) McGinnis. His paternal grandparents, Samuel and Mary (Lemert) McGinnis, were born respectively in Pennsylvania and in Ohio, and they became the parents of ten children, Daniel, Joshua, William, Lyman, Samuel, Mary, Hannah, Susan, Rebecca and Alvira. The demise of the grandfather occurred in 1875 and that of the grandmother in 1884. Daniel McGinnis farmed for some time but later turned his attention to merchandising in Frazeysburg, Ohio. He gained gratifying success in business and was well known and highly esteemed. For several years he was the mayor of that town and for twenty-one years he was justice of the peace, his long continuance in the office being the best proof of the acceptability of his services. He passed away on the 19th of January, 1909, when seventy-eight years of age, having survived his wife for many years, her demise occurring in May, 1881. They were the parents of the following children: Mary, Oliver P., Harmon K., Clara, Balton, Ashley, V. R., Bethann, Chauncey, Samuel, Metta, Don O., D. S. and Z. S.

V. R. McGinnis entered the public schools at the usual age and in due time became a pupil in the high school at Frazeysburg, where he continued his studies. He was also for a year and a half a student in the State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts at Ames, Iowa. For sixteen years he taught school but not wishing to devote his entire life to that profession, he utilized his spare time in studying law. His reading was under the supervision of two or three well known attorneys, among them E. W. Curry, of Leon, Iowa. In 1894 he was admitted to the bar and the same year began the practice of his profession in partnership with his former preceptor, E. W.

Curry. Two years later Mr. Curry passed away and since that time Mr. McGinnis has practiced alone. From the start his clientage has been large and important and he is justly regarded as one of the most prominent and successful attorneys of southern Iowa. His thorough knowledge of the principles of the law and his convincing argument in presenting a case before the court have been important factors in his continued success and his strict adherence to the ethics of the profession has also had much to do with his advancement as it has gained him the confidence of the public and of the bar. He has been a moving force in the furtherance of many worthy community activities, for twelve years has been president of the school board and since its organization has been the executive head of the Carnegie library of Leon. The impress of his individuality has also been felt in political circles, not only in his county and district, but throughout the state of Iowa. In 1900 he was the democratic candidate for congress, in 1910 a candidate for judge of the district court and in 1914 a candidate for governor. He is a strong and effective campaigner and scarcely an election passes that he does not make many speeches in behalf of his party's candidates for state and national offices. Not only is his clear and forceful reasoning as a public speaker a large factor in winning success for his party in Iowa but in its inner councils his advice is listened to with respect. His ability as an orator is recognized in other connections and he has often addressed reunions of old settlers and old soldiers.

On the 26th of December, 1888, occurred the marriage of Mr. McGinnis and Miss Emma C. Jennings, a daughter of S. C. and Martha Jennings. Mr. and Mrs. McGinnis are the parents of two children. Ralph A., an alumnus of the State University of Iowa, was in his college days captain of the varsity football team and made a wide reputation as an athlete. He is now an instructor in the Iowa City high school. The second son, Donald, is attending school at Leon.

Mr. McGinnis is a member of the Presbyterian Church and is serving as a trustee therein. He is characterized by energy and determination and in representing a client brings to his support every authority that will sustain his position, but in his professional zeal never forgets the supreme allegiance which every member of the bar owes to the law and to justice. Moreover, he is courteous to the opposing counsel, winning his cases by careful preparation and resourcefulness, and when confronted by some unexpected turn in a case he does not resort to petty personalities or ridicule his opponent but relies rather upon logical reasoning and the effective presenta-



tion of his argument. He has become a power in political circles because of his ability to see things as they are and his faculty of gaining the loyalty and securing the cooperation of others, qualities which insure their possessor of leadership in whatever field of activity he may engage. He has many friends and admirers as his characteristics are those that together constitute a high type of manhood.

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### ELBA SHEWMAKER.

Elba Shewmaker, who since January 1, 1915, has capably served as county treasurer of Decatur county, is a native son of Iowa, his birth having occurred on a farm in Grand River township, Decatur county, December 2, 1875, his parents being George and Emma (Bard) Shewmaker. The father was born in Jackson county, Indiana, and from that place came to Decatur county in 1869, after he had reached years of maturity. It was in the same year that Mrs. Shewmaker arrived in Decatur county with her parents, they having removed to this section of the state from Indiana. Her birth occurred in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1850. It was in this county that the young couple met and a year after their arrival they were united in marriage. They then located upon a farm in Grand River township, where the father was identified with agricultural pursuits throughout his remaining years. Prior to his removal to this state he had enlisted for service in the Civil war as a member of the Twenty-second Indiana Volunteers. He was very successful in business and took an active part in local affairs, having served from 1875 until 1878 as a member of the board of supervisors. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and died in that faith on the 16th of February, 1892, at the comparatively early age of forty-nine years. His widow also belongs to the Methodist church and now makes her home in Leon. To Mr. and Mrs. George Shewmaker were born three sons: Rolla, who is engaged in farming at Knowlton, Montana; Thomas E., who resides in California, where he also follows farming; and Elba, of this review.

The last named was reared on the home farm and assisted his father in the work of the fields during the spring and summer seasons, while during the winter months he pursued his education in the schools near his home, subsequently attending the high school at Grand River. He was a youth of about fifteen years at the time of his father's demise and since then has ably managed the farming interests in Grand

River township, the family still having in their possession the homestead comprising two hundred and forty acres. With the exception of two years spent in the inspecting department of Hillman's mercantile establishment in Chicago, he has always lived in Decatur county.

It was in the fall of 1914 that Mr. Shewmaker was elected on the republican ticket to the office of county treasurer of Decatur county and, taking charge of the office on the 1st of January, 1915, he is now capably serving in that position. In his fraternal relations he is identified with the lodge of Odd Fellows at Leon. Having spent his entire life in Decatur county he is well known and his election to the position which he is now filling is indicative of his popularity in this section of the state. He has a social, genial nature, which gains for him the warm regard and friendship of all with whom he comes in contact.

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### JAMES R. SMITH.

For more than three decades James R. Smith was prominently identified with the agricultural interests of Decatur county but is now practically living retired in a comfortable home in Lamoni. He was born in Lewis county, New York, April 3, 1841, a son of Peter and Emmeline Smith, who were both natives of Germany but, emigrating to the new world in an early day, were identified with the farming interests of Lewis county for a long period. Both spent their remaining days in the Empire state and passed away there. In their family were three sons, one of whom is living in the east.

James R. Smith was reared in the Empire state to the age of sixteen years and during that time he acquired but a limited education. At that early age he heard and heeded the call of the west and accordingly, in 1857, made his way to Illinois, and found employment at farm work near Mendota, in La Salle county. He was married in Jo Daviess county, that state, in 1864 and in the fall of 1866 continued his journey westward to Decatur county, Iowa. In the following year, 1867, he located upon a farm southeast of Lamoni, which continued his home throughout a long period. When Mr. Smith came to Iowa he had three horses and a wagon and but a few hundred dollars in money. This money he invested in land, which was then in a wild state, for at that time this county was but sparsely settled and wild game was numerous. Mr. Smith went to work and in course of time had the raw land in a good state of cultivation. As he pros-

pered he added to his holdings from time to time until he became the owner of a large amount of land, being at the present time the possessor of eight hundred and forty-five acres. He not only raised the cereals best adapted to soil and climate but also engaged extensively in raising stock, making a specialty of high grade cattle, and this returned to him a good income. It was some twenty years ago that he removed to Lamoni and embarked in the grain business, becoming one of the largest buyers of grain in this section of the state. He also assisted in the organization of the Farmers State Bank at Lamoni and is still serving as its vice president. Eventually, however, he disposed of his business interests and for the past fourteen years has lived retired, giving his attention to his invested interests but leaving the active work of his farm to younger hands. He has been a successful man and his success is based largely upon the fact that he was thrown upon his own resources early in his career, which developed in him a spirit of self-reliance and determination to make for himself a place in the middle west.

As previously stated Mr. Smith was married in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, in November, 1864, to Miss Eliza A. Graham, and in 1914, after a happy married life covering five decades, they celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of that event. Mrs. Smith was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, a daughter of Theodore and Lena (Tucker) Graham, natives of Ohio and Missouri, respectively. They were married, however, in Illinois. In 1866, the same year of the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Smith in Iowa, they, too, journeyed to Decatur county and Mr. Graham purchased a farm located south of Davis City and west of Pleasanton, in Hamilton township. There he was busily engaged for many years with the improvement and cultivation of his place but both he and his wife departed this life many years ago. He was successful in his undertakings and was a staunch supporter of the republican party. Of their family two sons and four daughters survive: Mrs. Viola Landphair, of Pleasanton, Iowa; Mrs. Warren Little, of Missouri; Mrs. Lydia M. Olds, of Jo Daviess county, Illinois; Mrs. Smith; William H., who is living retired in Lamoni, Iowa; and Benjamin F., who makes his home in Harrison county, Iowa.

To Mr. and Mrs. Smith have been born eight children, of whom six survive and all but one were born in Iowa. Clarence F., a farmer and stockman of Lamoni, is married and has one daughter. Theodore J., who also follows farming and stock-raising near Lamoni, is likewise married and has a family. Minnie B. is the wife of D. F. Kaller, a traveling salesman, who makes his home in Lamoni. Gertie is the wife of Bert Teale, of Mount Ayr, Iowa. Louie is the wife of

A. Otis White, who is engaged in the undertaking business in Lamoni. Arthur H. is married and has one child. He is now operating the home farm near Lamoni.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Smith has given stalwart support to the republican party and has served as a member of the board of supervisors, while for the past thirty years he has acted as school treasurer—a fact indicative of the confidence reposed in him by his fellow townsmen. In matters of religion he and his family affiliate with the Methodist church, and fraternally he is a Mason, belonging to the blue lodge at Lamoni. The position he has attained and the success he has won is the outcome of energy and perseverance intelligently applied in his early manhood. To few is accorded the privilege of traveling the journey of life together for a period of more than fifty years as Mr. Smith and his estimable wife have done and to few is accorded the high regard and esteem that this venerable couple enjoy from all with whom they are brought in contact.

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### HON. MELBERN F. THOMPSON.

Hon. Melbern F. Thompson, of Van Wert, is representing his district in the state legislature and is proving farsighted and courageous in his loyalty to the best interests of the people. A native of Clinton county, Ohio, he was born in October, 1860, a son of W. J. and E. J. (Stephenson) Thompson, who removed to Decatur county, Iowa, in 1880. The father continued to follow agricultural pursuits until his demise, which occurred at Van Wert in 1905, when he was seventy-two years of age. He served in a number of township offices and was an active member of the Christian church. His wife, a native of Ohio, is still living and resides with the subject of this review.

Melbern F. Thompson entered Hedding College in Illinois after completing his public-school education and there prepared more fully for meeting the responsibilities of later life. He continued to reside upon the farm with his parents until he was eighteen years of age and then engaged in railroad service as telegraph operator and agent for nine years. He accompanied his parents to Iowa in 1880 and in 1892 took up his residence at Van Wert, Decatur county, where he has since resided. For ten years he engaged in the grain and lumber business but for the last eight years he has given his attention to farm-



ing and to dealing in real estate. All of his business ventures have proved successful and he has gained more than a competence. In 1912 he was chosen as state representative on the democratic ticket and is still serving in that capacity, his record being one of which he has every reason to be proud. He has also held other offices, as he was for eight years township clerk and has also served as town clerk, as councilman and as mayor. He is the acknowledged leader of the democratic party in his part of the state and his advice carries weight in party councils. He adheres to the Christian church, in whose teachings are found the guiding principles of his life, and his genuine worth of character has won him the respect of those who are associated with him.

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### J. O. CHERRY.

J. O. Cherry, who for the past four years has lived retired at Le Roy, has resided in Decatur county since 1869, and for many years devoted his time to agricultural pursuits. He was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, August 19, 1841, of the marriage of Matthew and Mary (Offiter) Cherry, who removed to Ohio from the Keystone state in 1828. The father was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and was there reared to manhood. His first wife, who was in her maidenhood a Miss Reed, passed away in that state, and his second wife, the mother of our subject, died in Muskingum county, Ohio, when about forty-five years of age. He was subsequently married a third time and had in all seven children, but only two are living, our subject and a brother. The father died in Muskingum county, Ohio, when seventy-seven years of age.

J. O. Cherry remained a resident of the Buckeye state until he was twenty-two years of age, and then removed to Jackson county, Iowa, where his father owned two hundred and forty acres of land. He remained there until his marriage, after which he took up his residence in Henry county, Iowa, where he resided a few years before removing to this county. In 1869 he became a resident of Decatur county, locating on section 4, Garden Grove township, where he still owns two hundred and forty acres of fine land. He also holds title to eighty acres in Clarke county and during his active life successfully engaged in farming and stock-raising, specializing in breeding shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs. He made all of the improvements upon his place and the farm is excellently developed


and well equipped. For a few years he has rented his land and has lived retired in Le Roy.

On the 4th of July, 1865, occurred the marriage of Mr. Cherry and Miss Mary Cline. She was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, in 1843, a daughter of Tobias and Mary Cline, who in 1851 removed to Iowa by way of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. They located in Jackson county, where they passed away. To their union were born a large family of children, but only three survive, those besides Mrs. Cherry being Susan and Caroline. Mr. and Mrs. Cherry have had six children, namely: Harry, who died in early manhood; John, a resident of California, who married Miss Dudley; Ida, the wife of George Seay, also living in California; Emma, who married a Mr. Bingman, a resident of California; Ora, who gave her hand in marriage to Nelson Breckenridge and is living in the Golden State; and Josephine, the wife of William Heaton. Mr. and Mrs. Cherry also have thirteen grandchildren, some of whom are married.

The democratic party finds in Mr. Cherry a loyal supporter and he has served as a member of the town council of Le Roy. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Presbyterian church, of which he is an elder, and all movements looking toward moral progress profit by his cooperation. The leisure which he is now enjoying is the merited reward of former toil and none begrudges him his prosperity.

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### HENRY W. SPARLING.

 Henry W. Sparling has resided in Garden Grove township since the fall of 1852 and is now living in the town of Garden Grove, having retired from the active work of the farm. His birth occurred in Lawrence county, Ohio, in 1838 and he is a son of Henry and Annie (Hepler) Sparling. The father, who was born in Pennsylvania, removed as a boy with his parents to Belmont county, Ohio, and later to Lawrence county, that state. His father served under General Brown in the War of 1812 and was highly esteemed in his community, his demise, which occurred in Ohio, being deeply regretted by many. The religious faith of his wife was that of the Presbyterian church and she took an active part in its work. In 1850 Henry Sparling settled in Van Buren county, Iowa, subsequently removed to Davis county and in 1852 located in Garden Grove township, Decatur county. He entered land, to the cultivation of which he

devoted his energies until his demise, which occurred on the 18th of July, 1874, when he was about seventy-two years of age. He was one of the pioneers of the county, as when he arrived here much of the land was unbroken and there was but one store at Garden Grove. His wife was born in Lawrence county, Ohio, and they were married in that state. Her parents subsequently removed to Audrain county, Missouri, where both passed away. She died in this county at the advanced age of eighty-six years. Our subject is the fifth in order of birth in a family of nine children. One died in infancy. Alexander went to Oregon in 1853, but returned to Decatur county a few years ago and was residing at Le Roy when called to his reward. Silas, who served in the Civil war as a member of Company A, Thirty-fourth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, died at Helena, Arkansas. John passed away in 1853. Emma, who became the wife of E. J. Wiseman, is also deceased. Harriett married Dr. Elihu Darnielle and has passed away. Barbara, who became the wife of Isaac Helmick, is also deceased. George, who completes the family, has passed to his reward.

Henry W. Sparling received a common-school education and during his boyhood and youth also became thoroughly familiar with the methods of practical agriculture. It was but natural that when he reached man's estate he should continue in the occupation to which he had been reared and he proved very successful as a farmer and stock-raiser. His energy and wise management of his affairs enabled him to accumulate a competence and he has now sold his farm and purchased twenty acres of land at Garden Grove, where he resides. He has a fine residence and is enjoying the comforts and some of the luxuries of life, thus reaping the fruits of his former toil.

Mr. Sparling was married in 1870 to Miss Joanna Trullinger, who was born in 1847 in Davis county, Iowa, in the vicinity of Drakesville. Her mother was born in Preble county, Ohio, and her father was a native of Ross county, that state. To Mr. and Mrs. Sparling have been born the following children: Millie and Eva, who are successfully engaged in the poultry business under the name of Sparling Sisters; Joseph and Clara, both at home; an infant, who died unnamed; and Almira and Elbert, both deceased.

The family attend the Christian church but Mr. Sparling is liberal in his religious views. He was reared in the faith of the Baptist church. His political allegiance is given to the republican party, and he has at all times sought to advance the interests of his community. Both he and his wife are still enjoying excellent health and are rich in the honor and esteem which should accompany old age.

The Sparling Sisters, who are rated in Dun and Bradstreet, began business as poultry fanciers in 1911 and in the intervening four years have become widely known in the middle west. They breed Rose Comb Rhode Island Red, Rose Comb White Orpington and Royal Blue Orpington chickens, White Muscovy and Buff Orpington ducks and Embden geese, and in building up their strains have laid great emphasis upon egg production. They have exhibited their ducks at a number of shows and have won the following prizes:

Weldon, Iowa, December 11-13, 1913: White Muscovy ducks—First, old drake; first, young drake; first-second, young ducks.

Iowa State show, Des Moines, Iowa, January 1-7, 1914: White Muscovy ducks—First-second, young drakes.

Kansas City Poultry show, January 11-16, 1915: White Muscovy ducks—First, old drake; first, young drake. Buff ducks—First, old drake; first, young duck.

They sell both stock and eggs and have built up a large business not only in this country but in Canada, as their honesty and integrity are unquestioned and as their poultry is of high grade. They also handle grains, prepared poultry feed and remedies for diseases that affect poultry and these sidelines have likewise proved profitable.

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### ANDREW C. BROWN.

Andrew C. Brown owns and operates an excellent farm comprising one hundred and twenty-seven acres in Hamilton township and is well and favorably known in his locality. His birth occurred in Indiana, March 13, 1859, and he is a son of Thomas and Margaret (Staley) Brown. The father was born in Kentucky and the mother in South Carolina, but when fourteen years of age the former removed with his parents to the Hoosier state, where the family was numbered among the pioneer settlers. When he reached mature years he purchased land in Indiana and during his entire business career followed agricultural pursuits. He passed away in March, 1904, and his wife died in 1899.

Andrew C. Brown entered the public schools of his native state at the usual age and received a good common-school education. On putting aside his textbooks he concentrated his energies upon assisting his father with the farm work until he was twenty-five years old, when he started out on his own account, removing to Decatur county,



Iowa. He rented land here from 1884 until 1903, when he purchased land in Franklin township, which he cultivated for three years. At the end of that time he sold that place and purchased another farm in Franklin township, to the improvement of which he devoted his energies for two years. At the end of that time he removed to Hamilton township and for three years he and Newton Judd operated in partnership a tract of two hundred and forty-seven acres. In 1911 Mr. Brown purchased one hundred and twenty-seven acres on section 2, Hamilton township, and during the intervening four years has made many improvements upon the place. He understands practical methods of farming and his well directed industry is bringing him substantial financial returns.

In April, 1885, occurred the marriage of Mr. Brown and Miss Mary Jones. She is a daughter of Joseph and Matilda (Bixby) Jones, both natives of Pennsylvania, who, however, removed to Wayne county, Iowa, many years ago. The father farmed there until 1875, when he removed with his family to Decatur county. For years he rented land near Garden Grove, but is now living retired at the age of eighty-five years and makes his home with his children. His wife died in March, 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have become the parents of seven children, as follows: Mabel, the wife of Will Barber, of Garden Grove; Verley, who also lives in that town; Maggie, who gave her hand in marriage to Ross Dale, who lives near Garden Grove; Hazel, the wife of Earl Norton, also residing near Garden Grove; Marie, who lives at Humeston; and Thomas and Ruby, both at home.

The republican party finds in Mr. Brown a stalwart supporter and he has served as school director, as constable and as road superintendent. He holds membership in the Yeomen lodge and in the Christian church and his life is guided by the highest principles of morality. He does well his work as a farmer and in so doing promotes the agricultural development of his township and at the same time secures a gratifying measure of prosperity for himself.

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### ELMER L. SHIRA.

Elmer L. Shira, who is superintendent of the Decatur County Home, has proved very efficient in his difficult position, at once safeguarding the interests of the county and making it as comfortable as possible for those who are living in the home. His birth occurred

in Grant county, Indiana, September 15, 1865, and he is a son of Lyman W. and Christina (Barley) Shira, natives respectively of Ohio and of Pennsylvania. Both were born of Pennsylvania-Dutch stock. On removing westward they first settled in Indiana, but in 1876 went to Arkansas, where the father passed away. The mother is still living and resides in Los Angeles, California.

Elmer L. Shira attended the district schools in the Hoosier state. He assisted his father until he was sixteen years of age and then began working out as a hired hand, so continuing for nine years, after which he came to Decatur county, Iowa, and located in Eden township, where from 1890 to 1900 he was engaged in railroad construction work, furnishing repair supplies for the Des Moines, Kansas City and the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railways on their lines through Decatur county. From 1896 to 1900 Mr. Shira also devoted some time to agricultural pursuits. In 1900 he was elected superintendent of the Decatur County Home, which is located on sections 13, 14 and 15, Eden township, and comprises two hundred and forty acres of fine land. One hundred and ten acres is under cultivation and the remainder is in pasture. Mr. Shira grows excellent crops of grain and also raises cattle and hogs of a good grade, and has so managed the affairs of the home as to save the county a considerable sum of money annually. Almost all of the provisions used at the home are raised upon the farm and the work is well systematized. At the present time there are twenty-eight people living at the home and their comfort is carefully considered. Mrs. Shira is matron and under her management the domestic work of the institution is done quietly and efficiently. Since Mr. Shira took charge of the home many important improvements have been made. In 1914 an addition to the main building was put up at a cost of four thousand dollars, and with the exception of the horse barn, all of the outbuildings have been erected since 1900. Everything about the home is in an excellent condition and his services and those of his wife give complete satisfaction.

Mr. Shira was married November 16, 1890, to Miss May Smith, a daughter of Asa and Sarah (Boswell) Smith, both natives of Iowa. They are now living near McFall, Missouri, where the father is engaged in farming. Mr. and Mrs. Shira have one daughter, Winnie, who was born March 12, 1894. After completing the high-school course in Leon by graduation with the class of 1911 she took a collegiate course of study at the Iowa State Teachers' College at Cedar Falls, and is now teaching school in district No. 1, Eden township.

Mr. Shira is a republican and takes an active part in the work of the party. Fraternally he is identified with the blue lodge and Royal Arch chapter of the Masonic order, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America, all of Leon. He takes much interest in everything relating to the progress of his community and is especially concerned for the welfare of the public schools, realizing their paramount importance in a democratic system of government. For three years he served as school director of district No. 3, Woodland township, and proved efficient and aggressive in that capacity. His wife and daughter are both members of the Church of Christ of Eden township. He is well known in Decatur county and his ability and integrity are both universally recognized.

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### CHARLES THORP.

Among the successful merchants of Pleasanton is Charles Thorp, who is engaged in the grocery and restaurant business. He was born in Alton, Illinois, on the 19th of November, 1862, a son of George and Sarah Thorp, natives of England. The father, who was a silk weaver in his native land, emigrated to America in the '30s and located in Nauvoo, Illinois, where he worked at different occupations, eventually turning his attention to auctioneering and followed that calling for many years. He resided for a time in Hutchinson, Kansas, when that city was but a small village. He was burned out there and then went to Alton, Illinois, where he carried on business as an auctioneer for many years. He purchased merchandise which he sold at auction and proved quite successful. He was also a notary public. After leaving Alton he went to St. Louis, Missouri, where he worked as an auctioneer for the well-known Morgan, auctioneer. In 1881 he moved to Pleasanton, Decatur county, Iowa, and turned his attention to farming, renting land for several years or until his death, which occurred in 1887. He was known as Captain Thorp and had many sincere friends. His widow and two sons, William and Charles, also a daughter, Jemima, removed to St. Louis and lived there for several years, after which the mother made her home with her children until her death, which occurred June 19, 1902.

Charles Thorp was reared and educated in St. Louis and when he entered the business world he became connected with a stationery and printing firm, continuing in that line until 1881. In that year

he accompanied his parents to Decatur county and following the demise of his father he returned with his mother and brothers and sister to St. Louis. He and a brother there operated the King's Highway Express Company for fifteen years, after which they came again to Decatur county. They purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Hamilton township, near Pleasanton, and operated their farm until his brother's health failed. They then sold out and removed to Pleasanton, where they purchased a store building and three lots and opened a grocery store and restaurant. They conducted the business in partnership until the demise of the brother on the 8th of February, 1911. Since that time Mr. Thorp has been in business alone. He has studied the community carefully and buys his stock with a view to the demands of his customers. As his business policy is a liberal one he is meeting with well deserved success and receives a gratifying income from his store. The restaurant also returns him a good profit. Since the demise of his brother he has only one relative living, namely, Maria T. Swift, the wife of J. A. Swift, of St. Louis.

Mr. Thorp is a democrat and loyally supports that party at the polls, although he has never desired to hold public office. Fraternally he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Masonic blue lodge, of which he is treasurer. His religious faith is that of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints. He is esteemed not only for his energy and business ability but also for his integrity and his consideration of others.

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### CAPTAIN JOHN D. BROWN.

Captain John D. Brown, of Leon, Decatur county, has been signally honored by the Grand Army of the Republic, having been elected commander of the Department of Iowa at the state encampment in June, 1912. He has also served as state senator and is widely known throughout Iowa. A native of Huron county, Ohio, his birth occurred on the 1st of August, 1840, and his parents were Hugh and Harriet A. (Burns) Brown. The paternal grandfather, Thomas Brown, was born in the north of Ireland, of Scotch-Irish parentage. When a young man he crossed the Atlantic to the new world and settled in the state of New York. During the War of 1812 he fought in the American army and thus gave indubitable proof of his patriot-



CAPTAIN JOHN D. BROWN





ism. The maternal grandfather was James Burns, a native of Scotland and a descendant of Robert Burns, the famous and much beloved Scotch poet.

Hugh Brown was born in the Empire state but when a young man emigrated to Ohio and there followed the occupation of farming. In 1854 he came to Decatur county, Iowa, and purchased five hundred acres of land, to the cultivation of which he gave much of his time. He was also a miller, however, and bought one of the first flour mills built in Decatur county, and he likewise engaged in merchandising to some extent. At the time of his arrival in Iowa there were no railroads in the state and it required twenty-two days to make the round trip with oxen to Burlington, the nearest market. He was a prominent and influential man and served in a number of offices, including that of county supervisor. To him and his wife were born the following children: James E.; Susan, who married K. J. Bartlett; Frances, the wife of Robert Farquhar; Thomas H., who served in the Union army for four years during the Civil war and was a staff officer in the commissary department; John D., of this review, whose twin died in infancy; Melissa, who gave her hand in marriage to A. C. Northrup; William A. and George W., both deceased; and Walter P.

Captain John D. Brown accompanied his parents to Garden Grove, Iowa, in 1854 and was reared upon the homestead in Decatur county. His education was received in the public schools and in the Garden Grove high school and in 1861, when a young man twenty-one years of age, he enlisted in the Union army as a private in Company L, Third Iowa Cavalry. Before entering the field he was promoted to lieutenant of his company and afterward was made captain thereof. He saw a great deal of active service, participating in hard-fought battles in Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia. His command was a member of the army which under General A. J. Smith met General Forrest at Harrisburg and participated in the battle of Tupelo, where General Forrest's army was practically disorganized. Returning to Memphis, Captain Brown's command was ordered to cross the Mississippi river into Arkansas and join the forces which were to engage General Price. That well known Confederate leader was marching north with his army to invade Missouri and was considerably in advance of the Federal troops which were pursuing him. However, the two forces met at Independence, Missouri, and as the result of the battle General Price was driven back. In a charge across the Big Blue, in Missouri, Captain Brown fell, shot through the right hip. For two days and

nights he was left upon the battlefield and would doubtless have perished if Lot Abram, his predecessor in the office of department commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, had not seen him in marching past and given him his canteen of water. Captain Brown was eventually taken to Kansas City and thence to St. Louis, where he remained until he recovered from his wounds. As soon as he was able he rejoined his regiment and participated in battles in various parts of the south. His regiment was sent to Columbus, Georgia, where there were several thousand Confederates on parole, as it was feared that an attempt might be made by the southerners to rescue Jefferson Davis, who had been captured, when he was brought through the city under guard of thirty cavalymen. General Upton, in command of the Federal forces in Columbus, detailed one hundred men from the Third Iowa Cavalry, under Captain Brown, as an additional guard to make sure that the prisoner was not rescued by the Confederates. However, no demonstration or attempt at rescue was made. On the 9th of August, 1865, Captain Brown was mustered out at Atlanta, Georgia, and on the 20th day of September he was paid off at Davenport, Iowa, after which he returned to his home at Garden Grove.

He gave his attention to agricultural pursuits and for many years engaged in farming and in the stock business. He raised stock extensively and also bought and shipped a large number of cattle and hogs each year, from the sale of which he derived a substantial return. He studied the markets carefully so as to secure the highest price possible and as his animals were in good condition when sold they were readily disposed of. He still owns several fine farms in Decatur county and supervises their operation, although for a number of years he has resided in his beautiful home in Leon. He also is part owner of the Hotel Continental at Centerville, Iowa.

Captain Brown has always taken a great interest in matters relating to the general welfare and has been especially concerned in regard to the agricultural development of his county and state. For nine years he was a member of the board of directors of the Iowa State Fair and was a member of that body when the present beautiful fairgrounds at Des Moines were purchased. His knowledge of public questions, his clear insight and marked public spirit fitted him eminently for service in the legislature and in 1909 he was elected as state senator from the fifth district and became one of the leaders in the upper house. He was chairman of the committee on military affairs and a member of the committees on appropriations, railroads, agriculture and highways. He was listened to with much respect in



committee rooms as it was recognized that he made a careful study of the questions involved in the various measures to be reported upon and he proved a convincing speaker on the floor of the house. He introduced a number of important bills that later became laws, including the bill to establish a board of inspectors whose business it should be to inspect the gasoline sold in the state. This bill was bitterly opposed by the Standard Oil interests but its supporters led by Captain Brown made such a splendid fight for its adoption that it was passed. He served for two terms and his record shows that he was at all times loyal to the best interests of the common people. He has also been a member of the county board of supervisors and takes much interest in local governmental affairs.

Captain Brown is justly proud of his military record and has for years been a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He has been willing to serve the organization in any way possible and his devotion to its interests has been recognized and rewarded, as in June, 1912, at the state encampment at Mason City he was unanimously elected department commander, an honor which he fully deserved. There was never the slightest question as to his efficiency or loyalty as a soldier and officer and he was equally distinguished by generosity and appreciation of the fine qualities of his foes. He cherishes the following letter which he received from a Confederate and which bears witness to his magnanimity:

“Okolona, Miss., July 22, 1909.

“Captain J. D. Brown will please accept this little poem, not only as a token of personal esteem, but of grateful remembrance of his kindness in protecting my home and family when defenseless and in the power of his soldiers, for which the name of Captain Brown will ever be remembered as a generous foe, who made a friend while life lasts.  
(Signed) Colonel James Gordon.”

Captain Brown has been twice married, his first union being with Miss Clara C. Hoodley, a daughter of Merwin Hoodley and a graduate of Hiram College. She was a student in that institution when James A. Garfield, who later became president of the United States, was its president and there learned much of his personality and ability. She was a member of the Christian church and was baptized by Mr. Garfield. By her marriage she became the mother of two children: Elmer J., who married Miss Etta Stone and has six children, John O., Harry B., Thomas R., Hugh, Margaret C. and George W.; and E. J., who died when two years of age. The wife

and mother died on the 23d of June, 1903, and on the 25th of October, 1905, Captain Brown married Anna E. Thissell, widow of Charles Thissell. Her father, William West, was born in North Carolina but removed to Massachusetts when a young man and her mother was born and reared in the Bay state, where they were married.

There is no more highly esteemed or more popular resident of Leon than Captain Brown and all of his friends and acquaintances have rejoiced with him in the honors that have been bestowed upon him and all hold him in high regard as a man and as a citizen.

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### ROBERT TURNER.

Robert Turner, who was for many years actively engaged in farming, has lived at Lamoni since 1901, and is now giving some attention to the real-estate business. He was born on the 2d of December, 1835, in Berkeley county, Virginia, now West Virginia, of the marriage of Robert and Nancy (Jackson) Turner, the former a farmer, who was also interested in two saw and grist mills. Both parents died when our subject, their only child, was still quite young.

Robert Turner of this review attended school in his native state until the winter of 1854-55 and then with another young man he started for Texas and went as far as Marshall, that state. He then returned eastward, going by way of New Orleans and thence by boat to Burlington, Iowa, where he continued his education. After completing his studies he worked at different occupations until the 11th of August, 1862, when he enlisted in Company E, Twenty-fifth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, which was assigned to the Fifteenth Army Corps, and was with Sherman in practically all of the battles in which he was engaged. Mr. Turner served for nearly three years, participating in the Grand Review at Washington. He was mustered out on the 6th of June, 1865, at Washington, D. C., and returning to Davenport, Iowa, he received his pay. He then traveled through a number of counties in Iowa, including Decatur, and also several counties in Missouri, making the trip on horseback, studying carefully the conditions and the natural advantages offered by each district. He decided to locate in Fayette township, Decatur county, and went to Fort Madison, Iowa, where he remained until the following fall. He then established his home in Decatur county, arriving here on the 20th of October, 1866. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 21, Fayette township, which was for

many years his home. For two terms he taught school at Davis City and also followed that profession in Fayette township and in Eden township, but not long after his marriage he began to concentrate his activities upon his farm, which he had improved in the intervening years. Later he bought twenty acres of timber land in Missouri and secured rails for fences and lumber for buildings from his own timber. As time passed he brought his farm to a high state of cultivation and made many valuable improvements, developing one of the best farms in his township. He continued to reside there, with the exception of sixteen months when he engaged in the mercantile business in Lamoni, until 1901. He then left the farm and took up his residence in Lamoni, where he owns a fine home. He engages in the real-estate business to some extent, but is enjoying a large measure of leisure, as he has accumulated more than a competence. A number of years ago he bought the block where the school is now located.

On the 7th of January, 1871, Mr. Turner married Miss Dora A. Graham, who was then eighteen years of age and who was a sister of Mrs. J. R. Smith, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work. Mrs. Turner passed away on the 7th of June, 1883, on the home farm, leaving four children, as follows: Inez A., who was born on the 9th of June, 1872, married Clifford B. Anderson, of Lamoni, and they have a daughter, Tuloir. Gilbert Edgar, whose birth occurred on the 2d of January, 1874, is cashier of the bank at Kellerton. He married Jennie Hickman, by whom he has a daughter, Arline. Lydia Beatrice, born March 30, 1877, is the wife of Frank J. Horton, of Goodland, Sherman county, Kansas, and they have three children, Dortha, Forrest and Helen B. Robert Clyde was born May 31, 1883, and died January 18, 1885. On the 4th of June, 1884, Mr. Turner married Mrs. Helen B. Lawhorn, who by her first union had two sons: N. W. Lawhorn, now a resident of San Antonio, Texas; and Osa Lawhorn, who died several years ago, leaving three children, all of whom are living.

Mr. Turner cast his first vote for Dodge, who was candidate for governor on the democratic ticket, but as a rule has supported the republican party at the polls. He served a term as mayor of Lamoni and since 1905 has been justice of the peace, winning much commendation by his fairness and impartiality. He belongs to John R. Andrews Post, G. A. R., in which he has filled all of the chairs and in which he is now serving as adjutant and quartermaster. While he has never belonged to any church, he is in sympathy with all movements that are characterized by moral endeavor, and his own life has

been fashioned after high standards of conduct. Although he is past seventy-nine years of age, he has excellent health and is quite an active factor in the work of the world and he attributes his health and energy to the fact that he has obeyed the laws of nature, has observed regular hours and has abstained from the use of tobacco in any form and from the use of liquor except as a medicine. He has worked hard and has also given much thought to the planning of his labor so as to secure the greatest efficiency, and the success which he has achieved is richly deserved. Since 1866 he has resided in Decatur county and in the intervening years has taken part in the transformation of the county from a district that yet bore many signs of pioneer life to a region with all of the comforts and conveniences of an advanced civilization.

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### JAMES H. MARTIN.

James H. Martin still owns two hundred acres of excellent land in Bloomington and Fayette townships, his home being on section 22, Bloomington township, and he held title to six hundred acres of land until he divided the greater part of his holdings among his children. He was born in 1855, in Birmingham, Staffordshire, England, a son of William and Martha (Tucker) Martin. About 1857 the father emigrated to America and a year or so later the family followed him to this country. They resided at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for one year, after which a removal was made to Rock Island, Illinois, where they lived for two years. Subsequently the family residence was maintained at Kewanee, that state. The father owned a small coal mine, and as he was a practical miner and very energetic and industrious, he gained financial independence. He passed away in Kewanee in 1889 when about sixty years old, but his widow is still living at the advanced age of eighty years. The homestead is still in the possession of the family. Mr. Martin was a devout member of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints, to which his wife also belongs. They were the parents of five sons and three daughters, namely: James H.; John, a farmer of Fayette township; Mrs. Martha Tucker, Mrs. Rosanna Lyons and Mrs. Elizabeth Lamb, all of Illinois; William, who was killed on a railroad at Independence, Missouri; George, of Fayette township, this county; and Thomas, a farmer living near Cainesville, Missouri.



James H. Martin was reared in Illinois and there received his education. In 1880, when a young man of twenty-five years, he removed to Decatur county, Iowa, and settled near the state line in Fayette township, buying eighty acres of land on section 26 from the United Order of Enoch. Subsequently he added forty acres adjoining and remained upon that farm for ten years, making a number of improvements. In 1890 he sold that one hundred and twenty acres and purchased three hundred and twenty acres on section 22, Bloomington township, to which he later added forty acres. He remained upon that place for ten years, after which he removed to Lamoni, where he resided for one year. At the end of that time he purchased one hundred and eighty-six acres in the Evergreen Settlement southwest of Lamoni, where he resided for about a decade. He then returned to his farm on section 22, Bloomington township, where he has since made his home. He has improved his place well and keeps everything in excellent condition, while his well directed industry has made him a successful and prosperous farmer and stock-raiser. Although at one time he owned six hundred acres of land, he now has but two hundred acres, as he has divided his holdings among his children. The first eighty acres which he purchased cost twelve dollars and a half per acre, but is now easily worth one hundred dollars per acre. He began his independent career with a capital of less than four hundred dollars and the financial independence which is now his is the merited reward of energy and good management.

Mr. Martin was married in Illinois to Miss Sarah Ann Atkinson, a native of England, who came to America when thirteen years of age and who passed away in 1911 when about sixty years of age, leaving five children: William, thirty-two years old, who is still at home; Martha, the wife of A. L. Keen, a farmer of this county, by whom she has a daughter, Mildred; James, Jr., who owns a number of farms and is successfully engaged in business in Lamoni and who married, in Illinois, Miss Hazel Roth; Clarence, a farmer of this county, who was married in Missouri to Miss Ora Cawfelt; and Ruth, the wife of R. A. Hammer, mentioned elsewhere in this work. On the 26th of October, 1913, Mr. Martin married Mrs. Emma (Hersha) Good. By her previous marriage she has four children, of whom two reside at Lamoni: Clarence, cashier of the Farmers State Bank; Alma, a high-school graduate and a clever cartoonist; Galdys, who is attending school; and John, at home.

Mr. Martin is a republican, and although several times solicited to become a candidate for political office, has always refused. He

has, however, served as a member of the board of education, as he recognizes the paramount importance of an excellent system of public schools. He became a member of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints at Kewanee and has since, or for a period of forty years, taken great interest in the welfare and growth of that organization. He gave the local congregation an acre of ground on which the house of worship was erected, and has contributed generously to the current expenses of the church. His wife is also identified with the Latter Day Saints. In addition to his farm, he owns an excellent residence in Lamoni, where his daughter, Mrs. Hammer, now lives. He began his independent career with very little capital, but he believed that energy and sound judgment, coupled with the opportunities of the middle west, would enable him to achieve success and that faith has been amply justified, as he is one of the substantial men of his town-ship.

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### PRESIDENT SAMUEL A. BURGESS.

As president of Graceland College of Lamoni, Iowa, Samuel A. Burgess occupies a position of leadership in educational circles in this part of the state, and his influence has been widely felt. He was born on the 15th of September, 1877, in St. Louis, Missouri, a son of Samuel R. and Eveline Burgess, and of English descent. After completing his public-school course he entered the St. Louis Manual Training school and subsequently matriculated in Washington University in that city, which conferred upon him the A. B. degree in 1900 and the LL. B. degree two years later. For a number of years he has been prominent in various societies affiliated with the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints and since 1898, with the exception of two years, has been a member of the general executive committee of the Zion's Religio-Library Society, a young people's organization, and in that connection has done much to promote the moral and intellectual growth of the young men and women of the church. For one year he was general librarian of the Sunday school, while he was the first chairman of the Latter Day Saints' Library Commission, of which he has been a member since its organization. He has also been president of the Sunday School Religio-Normal Alumni Association and is a member of the Church Commission on Social Service. Since 1911 he has been a member of the board of trustees of Graceland College; since April, 1914, has served as associate

director of the Graceland Extension Institute; while since June, 1913, he has been president of Graceland College, a school maintained by the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints at Lamoni. Under his direction a high standard of scholarship has been maintained and the student body has grown appreciably since he became the head of the school. His relations with the members of the faculty have been most pleasant and all have worked together for the welfare of the institution, which is well known in southern Iowa.

On the 15th of June, 1915, Mr. Burgess was married to Miss Alice May Chase, a daughter of Amos M. and Eliza Chase, nee France. She was born October 15, 1892, and is a descendant of Aquila Chase, an Englishman who landed at Newbury, Massachusetts, in 1660. Her father is therefore a cousin of Salmon P. Chase, who was secretary of the treasury under Lincoln and afterward chief justice of the United States supreme court. Her paternal grandmother is a direct descendant of — Silsbee, an Englishman who landed at Salem, Massachusetts, in 1626. On her maternal side she is related to the France family, who came from Illinois to Fayette township in the early '80s, being a granddaughter of Thomas France. She was a student in the public schools of Lamoni, completing her high school work at the Northwestern State Normal at Alva, Oklahoma. She took her college work in the University of Utah at Salt Lake City and in Cornell University at Ithaca, New York, and from the latter received the degree of Bachelor of Arts in June, 1914. Her father has been a traveling missionary of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for the past twenty years and the daughter was associated with him for several years as a field worker. It was as a field worker and missionary that she was in Utah at the time she attended the university there, all of her spare time outside of school hours being spent in missionary work, in the church building, various halls and at times in the streets of Salt Lake City. Despite the aggressive work against the dominant church of Utah, her scholarship secured her election to the Gleam, an honorary literary society. Following her graduation at Cornell she taught Latin and German in the high school at Lamoni. In that connection she was instrumental in giving the Latin Club a permanent organization with a regular constitution under student officers, the club being now known as Nital.

While living in St. Louis Mr. Burgess was a member of the Missouri Athletic Club and of the Civic League of that city and was for two years secretary of the St. Louis Manual Training Association and was a member of the Washington University Association. He

still belongs to the Law Library Association of St. Louis and to the Bar Association of that city, the National Geographic Society of America and the American Economic Association. He also belongs to a number of philosophical organizations and has studied the question of religion and religious training from many viewpoints. He was secretary of the Eighth Quorum of Elders and has exerted a deeply felt influence in the work of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints. All who know him concede his ability and his personal traits are such that he has also gained many warm and sincere friends.

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### HARRY G. ARNOLD.

Harry G. Arnold, a traveling salesman residing at Garden Grove, was born on the 6th of May, 1875, in Decatur county of the marriage of Guy and Elsie (Howes) Arnold. His paternal grandfather, Sylvanus Arnold, who married Miss Lucretia Baker, went to California in 1849 and sought his fortune in the gold fields. In 1852 their son Guy located in Decatur county, Iowa, where he became the owner of large tracts of land and gave his time to agricultural pursuits. Like his father, he felt the fascination of mining and the possibilities of sudden wealth and prospected in both the California and Alaska gold fields. It is said that in 1898 he was the first white man to reach the headwaters of the Pelly and Stewart rivers in Alaska. He made the trip in a boat from Fort Selkirk to Nome, a distance of about twenty-six hundred miles. His wife passed away while he was in the north. He then returned home and is now living in Garden Grove township, Decatur county. He was one of the earliest settlers and the oldest living resident of that township. For one term he represented his district in the state legislature, was for some time county supervisor and held a number of township offices, proving at all times able and conscientious in the discharge of his duties. He also served as president of the Decatur County Historical Society and for several years was a member of the school board. Although he still retains his residence in Garden Grove township, he is at present in Texas looking after his landed interests in that state. He is one of the most substantial and most highly esteemed men in Decatur county and his friends are many. To him and his wife were born the following children: Harry G.; Helen E., the wife of Elmer J. Lovett, by whom she has three children,



John J., Arnold and Pauline; Esther L., who married Howard J. Culver and has two children, Guy and Alice; Isabella; William; Pauline, a graduate nurse, who took her training in Mercy Hospital of Des Moines and who is now residing in California; and John D., who is a student in the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts at Ames.

Harry G. Arnold was educated in the public and high schools of Garden Grove, and during the period of his minority remained under the parental roof. He continued to farm until 1909, when he became a traveling salesman for the Braucher Manufacturing Company, of St. Joseph, Missouri. The firm manufactures cotton ducking, etc., and Mr. Arnold represents them as salesman in the state of Oklahoma. He also does considerable collecting for the company in the states of Kansas, Arkansas, Texas, Colorado, New Mexico and Louisiana.

In 1899 Mr. Arnold married Miss Mabel Judd, a daughter of Newton Judd, one of the highly esteemed early settlers of Decatur county. Mr. and Mrs. Arnold have four children, Judd, Elsie, Harriet and Edgar.

Mr. Arnold gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and in 1906 was its candidate for county treasurer. In that year he was elected mayor of Garden Grove, giving the city an efficient and businesslike administration. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Masonic blue lodge, and with the Dramatic Order Knights of Khorassan. His religious faith finds expression in his membership in the Episcopal church and he is glad to cooperate with all movements furthering high moral endeavor.

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### S. P. WILEY.

S. P. Wiley, who owns five hundred and twenty acres on section 22, High Point township, was born in Jackson county, this state, on the 12th of June, 1864, a son of Isaac and Sarah (Spicer) Wiley. The father was born in Ireland, but in 1840, when about twenty-three years of age, emigrated to the United States, where he resided for some time. Following the deaths of his parents he returned to Ireland and remained there for ten years, after which he came again to America. He was married in Zanesville, Ohio, and subsequently removed to the vicinity of Dubuque, Iowa, where he lived for fourteen years, after which he came to Decatur county and purchased the

old homestead from a man by the name of Beggs. His demise occurred in 1890 when he was seventy-two years of age, and his wife died in 1903 when seventy-four years old. They were the parents of ten children, only three of whom are still living, those besides our subject being Mrs. S. L. Cox, of Allerton; and Wilson, a farmer, living near Allerton.

S. P. Wiley was reared under the parental roof and attended the public schools in the acquirement of an education. He has devoted his entire active life to agricultural pursuits and now owns part of the old homestead. His holdings total five hundred and twenty acres of excellent land, and he is one of the most successful farmers and stock-raisers of High Point township.

On the 3d of March, 1898, Mr. Wiley married Miss Stella C. Cowden, by whom he had two children: Martha C., who died on the 10th of December, 1914, at the age of fifteen years; and Maurice W., who was born November 28, 1900. On the 9th of March, 1908, Mr. Wiley married Miss Susie Batt, of Worth county, Missouri, a daughter of Aaron and Catherine (Nutt) Batt. Her father was a farmer by occupation. She is one of a family of ten children and by her marriage has three children: Horace, who was born April 25, 1909; Mildred, born July 14, 1910; and Emmett, whose birth occurred August 20, 1911.

Mr. Wiley is a republican, for six years was a member of the board of supervisors and has also served as assessor and township trustee. His official record is one that is highly creditable to him and there has never been any doubt either of his ability or of his integrity. He belongs to the Masonic order, holding membership in Clay Lodge No. 193, A. F. & A. M. All those who know him esteem him highly and he is recognized as a progressive and prosperous agriculturist.

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### SAMUEL A. GATES.

Samuel A. Gates, an attorney and real-estate dealer of Leon, Iowa, was born in Athens county, Ohio, February 25, 1850, a son of Samuel H. and Charlotte Gates. In June, 1855, he removed with his parents to Decatur county, Iowa, locating on a farm two miles north of Leon. He had the usual advantages of school and farm work afforded by frontier life, and when eighteen years old taught his first school at Davis City, Iowa. In February, 1869, he entered

the high school of Leon and was a member of the first graduating class in June, 1871. He taught school and studied law alternately until he was admitted to the bar May 1, 1875. After spending a few months looking for a good place to practice law he decided there was no place like home and returned to Leon, where in September, 1875, he opened a law office and has ever since been identified as a member of the Leon bar.

On November 1, 1877, Mr. Gates married Miss Emma J. Springer, daughter of Rev. B. O. Springer, an early Presbyterian minister of Decatur county. Mrs. Gates passed away in May, 1891, leaving her husband and two daughters, Mary A. and Grace E. In July, 1894, Mr. Gates remarried, choosing for his bride Mrs. Lenna F. Huston, daughter of Captain E. H. Alexander. They are the proud parents of two children, John A., born September 28, 1899; and Florence E., born March 28, 1903.

Politically Mr. Gates is a republican and has always been an earnest advocate for the rights of the masses. Fraternally he has been identified with the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and Home-stead Lodges, and religiously is a member of the Presbyterian church, to which his entire family belong. His life is as an open book in Decatur county and has been so lived as to merit the confidence, respect and esteem of all who know him.

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### JAMES KINDRED.

James Kindred, who is living retired in Pleasanton after many years devoted to agricultural pursuits, was born in Owen township, Jackson county, Indiana, in March, 1834, of the marriage of William and Rachel (Woods) Kindred. The father was a native of Kentucky and was by occupation a farmer and blacksmith. He removed to Indiana in an early day in the history of that state and at first concentrated his attention upon blacksmithing. Later he purchased land in Jackson county, which he operated until 1856, when he moved to Missouri. He continued to do blacksmithing in connection with his farm work until he was seventy years of age, his demise occurring in 1895, when he was eighty years old. His wife, who was a native of Indiana, has also passed away.

James Kindred received his education in the district schools of the Hoosier state, but when fourteen years of age left home and began to provide for his own support, going to Illinois, where he

worked as a farm hand for eight years. At the end of that time he removed to Mercer county, Missouri, where he bought land which he improved and operated. In the meantime he had learned the blacksmith's trade and erected a shop upon his farm, doing blacksmithing for thirteen years. He was actively engaged in farming for fifty-three years, but at the end of that time felt that he had accumulated sufficient of this world's goods and in May, 1910, he removed to Pleasanton, where he is now living retired. He still owns, however, two hundred and eighty-three acres of excellent land and at one time held title to four hundred acres.

On the 16th of March, 1856, Mr. Kindred was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Easton, a daughter of John J. and Nancy (Thorp) Easton, both natives of Kentucky. The father, who followed the occupation of farming, removed to Indiana in the early days of the history of that state, and after residing there for a number of years went to Illinois, whence he removed to Mercer county, Missouri. He died when sixty-seven years of age and his wife is also deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Kindred have become the parents of twelve children, namely: Nancy C., the deceased wife of Phil Kindred; John William, who is living in Colorado; Delanie, deceased; Mary F., the wife of Jack Kindred, a resident of Harrison county, Missouri; Rebecca, who married Charles Edwards, residing in Colorado; Robert R., deceased; Susan E., the wife of Andrew Moore, who operates the farm belonging to our subject; Janet C., who married Emmett Hilton, of Mercer county, Missouri; Beverly, deceased; Charles C. and Albert, who have also passed away; and Bertie E., the wife of Henry Hill, of Mercer county, Missouri.

Mr. Kindred is a democrat and is a faithful worker in the ranks of the party. During the Civil war he was for twenty-two days at the front. He has made many friends in Pleasanton since removing here and is accounted one of the valuable citizens of the town, as he takes a keen interest in the general welfare.

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#### OSCAR L. PECK.

Oscar L. Peck, who is a well known farmer of section 9, Morgan township, was born upon the family homestead in that township, January 7, 1876. His father, Hiram Peck, was born in Ohio of Dutch ancestry and during his early life taught school and also followed the carpenter's trade. After removing to Morgan township,



this county, he purchased land, becoming the owner of two hundred and forty acres, which he cultivated successfully for many years. He was married in Lineville, Iowa, in 1870 to Miss Lucy Bellows, whose birth occurred on the 15th of October, 1855, in Morgan township. Her parents, Smith and Emaline Bellows, were pioneer settlers of this county, but previous to removing here resided in Illinois. The father died upon his farm in Morgan township, but his wife survives and now makes her home in Lineville, Iowa. Hiram Peck passed away on the 15th of November, 1902, and following his demise his wife continued to reside upon the farm with the younger children until 1914, when she removed to Leon, where she is still living. They were the parents of eleven children: Oscar L.; Wilbert, deceased; Francis, who is living in Colorado; Clyde, of Oklahoma; Inez, the wife of Frank Warnock, who is living in the vicinity of Lineville, Iowa; Ruby, who married Oscar Vaughn, of Morgan township; Helen, the wife of James Grogan, of Morgan township; Guy, who is living in Storm Lake, Iowa; Mary, the wife of Stokes Moore, of Corydon, Iowa; Horace, deceased; and a daughter who died in infancy.

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Oscar L. Peck attended the public schools in his boyhood and youth and thus acquired his education. He remained at home and gave his father the benefit of his labor until he was twenty-three years of age, when he began farming for himself, renting farms in Hamilton and Woodland townships for three years. In 1903 he purchased one hundred and fourteen acres on section 9, Morgan township, and in the intervening years has added thereto until his holdings now comprise one hundred and ninety acres of land, all of which is well improved. He does all of the work connected with the operation of the farm by himself and is meeting with gratifying success as a farmer and stock-raiser. He breeds high grade cattle and hogs, which he ships to the St. Joseph, Chicago and Kansas City markets.

Mr. Peck was married on the 19th of November, 1900, to Miss Nellie Scott, a daughter of Dr. William H. H. and Louisa (Richardson) Scott. Her father was a native of Bartholomew county, Indiana, and came of Irish ancestry. He was born on the 14th of December, 1840, and remained in his native state until he was eleven years of age, when he removed with his parents to Missouri. In 1862 he enlisted in Company B, Thirty-sixth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war. For fourteen months he was confined in the Confederate prison at Tyler, Texas. He graduated from the Keokuk Medical College at Keokuk, Iowa, and in 1891, went to Cushing, Oklahoma, taking up a claim in Payne county,

which he improved and operated. At the same time he continued to practice his profession, in which he gained an enviable reputation. He was also prominent in public affairs and represented Payne county in the territorial legislature of Oklahoma, proving an efficient working member of that body. He passed away at his home in Cushing on the 6th of November, 1908, when sixty-seven years of age. He was married in 1866 in Mercer county, Missouri, to Miss Louisa Richardson, who was born in Delaware county, Ohio, November 19, 1845, and who is of Irish descent. She survives and still makes her home in Cushing.

Mr. Peck is a republican and staunchly supports the candidates of that party at the polls. He is now serving his fifth year as trustee of Morgan township, was for three years treasurer of the school board and for five terms has been a school director. Fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Lineville, and his wife is a member of the Rebekahs. They are numbered among the prosperous and public-spirited citizens of their township and are widely and favorably known.

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### DAVID DANCER.

David Dancer achieved a large measure of financial success, becoming one of the wealthiest men in Decatur county, and he was held in high respect as an agriculturist and as a banker but it would be far from the truth to suppose that he was not equally honored as a man and as a citizen, for his dominant traits were such as invariably win esteem and goodwill.

Mr. Dancer was born in Oneida county, New York, on the 20th of February, 1827, a son of William and Phoebe (Mix) Dancer, the former born in New Jersey and the latter in New York. Of their seven children who grew to maturity our subject was the youngest. As a child he accompanied his parents on their removal to Will county, Illinois, the family home being established near the site of the city of Kankakee, and there the mother died on the 20th of August, 1839, when fifty-one years of age. The father kept the family together and cared for the children as well as looked after his property interests. He passed away in Will county on the 23d of September, 1852, when seventy-five years of age.

David Dancer grew to manhood in the Prairie state and in addition to receiving a common-school education was early trained to work



*David Dancer*





upon the farm. In 1851 he was married and began following agricultural pursuits on his own account, remaining in Will county, Illinois, until 1876. He then sold out and removed to Plano, that state, where he remained for a year. In 1871 he had become associated with E. Banta and I. L. Rogers as agent for the First United Order of Enoch and in the later '70s they visited Decatur county and in their capacity as agents purchased thirty-three hundred acres of land as a preliminary step toward founding a colony of Latter Day Saints. In 1877 Mr. Dancer came with his family to Decatur county, Iowa, and located on section 5, Fayette township, where he lived until 1882. He owned and operated a farm of twelve hundred and eighty acres of excellent land and later acquired additional holdings, owning at one time two thousand acres in Decatur county, from which he derived a handsome income. In 1882 he built a fine residence in Lamoni and the family home was established there. He continued to superintend his large farming and stock-raising activities and also became identified with financial interests, as he was one of the organizers of the State Savings Bank of Lamoni and was made president of that institution, in which capacity he served until his death. He was as successful a financier as he was a farmer and stock-raiser and his advice was listened to with much respect by his colleagues in the banking world. His widow is at present vice president of the State Savings Bank of Lamoni and is recognized as a woman of marked business ability and unusual knowledge concerning financial affairs. She continues to reside in the beautiful home erected by Mr. Dancer.

On the 16th of March, 1851, Mr. Dancer was united in marriage to Miss Rosalia Harvey, who was born in Lower Canada on the 31st of January, 1833, a daughter of Hiram and Nancy Harvey. When she was but five years of age she was taken by her parents to Will county, Illinois, and there her mother died on the 9th of August, 1876, when seventy-two years of age. Her father lived to be more than eighty years old. To Mr. and Mrs. Dancer were born five children, three of whom have passed away: Nancy, who died when twenty-two months old; Ella, who was three years old when her death occurred; and Albert, who passed away at the age of twenty years. The two who survive are: Eugene, a resident of Canada, who is married and is engaged extensively in farming; and Walter, of Myrtle Point, Oregon, who still owns his farm in Fayette township and who is also married. The wife and mother passed away in August, 1893, and on the 20th of November, 1895, Mr. Dancer married Miss Anna Anderson, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew K. Anderson, residents of Lamoni. Mrs. Dancer was born in La Salle, Illinois, on the

30th of September, 1864. However, when but a child she was brought by her parents to Decatur county, Iowa, and was here reared and educated. Sketches of her brothers, Oscar and Daniel, appear elsewhere in this work. She has two children: David A., born October 7, 1896, who is attending the State University of Washington at Seattle; and Howard M., born March 30, 1898, who graduated from the Lamoni high school with the class of 1915.

Mr. Dancer was a republican in politics where national issues were at stake but in local elections voted for the best man regardless of party considerations. He served as a member of the city council of Lamoni and gave his influence to those measures which he believed to be calculated to further the public good. He was a devoted member of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints and a generous contributor to its support. His widow is also active in the work of that organization. Mr. Dancer took a public-spirited interest in the advancement of his community along material, moral and civic lines and was recognized as one of the leading citizens not only of Lamoni but of Decatur county. He passed away on the 23d of October, 1898, and all felt that the community had lost one whom it could ill spare while there were many who grieved for the demise of a personal friend.

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### JOHN N. BROWN.

John N. Brown, who is now successfully engaged in the real-estate business at Lamoni, was for many years a farmer of Ringgold county, where he still owns four hundred and eighty acres of excellent land. He was born in Louisa county, Iowa, on the 13th of November, 1849, a son of the Hon. N. T. and Elizabeth (Gibboney) Brown. The father served with ability as a member of the state legislature from Louisa county and died April 1, 1866, while a member of that body. Representatives McNutt, Burnett and others paid tribute to him and on the 7th of April at a meeting of Des Moines Lodge No. 133, I. O. G. T., the following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, In the dispensations of Divine Providence, the Hon. N. T. Brown has been removed from us by death, in the midst of his usefulness, honored and esteemed by all who knew him;

Resolved, That in the character of the deceased we recognized all the virtues of the Christian gentleman adorning public life;

Resolved, That in the death of Brother Brown his family has lost a kind and affectionate husband and father, the church a faithful and devoted member, the community in which he lived a worthy citizen, the general assembly an honored member and this lodge and the cause of temperance a true friend;

Resolved, That we ever cherish the memory of his connection with us as a lodge and most cordially tender to his bereaved companion and family our heartfelt sympathy and earnestly commend them to the kind protection of Him who disposes all things for the good of them who love Him;

Resolved, That a copy of the resolutions be furnished the Iowa State Register for publication and also a copy thereof be forwarded to the family of the deceased.

E. M. WRIGHT,  
WILLIAM RIDDLE,  
S. A. AYRES,

Committee.

Said preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted. It was also resolved by the lodge that a page in records of the lodge be inscribed to the memory of the deceased and that the hall of the lodge be draped in mourning for thirty days.

Our subject is one of a family of nine children, of whom two brothers are deceased. Basil G. resides at Kellerton, Iowa, and is now living retired. Mrs. Maggie S. Skinner is living at Dodge City, Kansas. W. H. is a resident of Hastings, Nebraska. Asa W. died in Indiana, leaving a wife and five children. George L. lives in Santa Rosa, California. Joe and Oscar are residents of Whittier, that state, and a brother died in infancy.

John N. Brown attended the common schools until he was thirteen years old and resided in Louisa county until he was nineteen years of age, when the family removed to Ringgold county, where the mother purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, paying therefor six dollars and a quarter per acre, although it is now worth more than one hundred dollars an acre. In 1876 Mr. Brown of this review began farming independently in Athens township, Ringgold county, where he acquired land, and later he became the owner of a farm in Riley township. He now has four hundred and eighty acres of land in Ringgold county and also holds title to over three thousand acres in the Panhandle of Texas, two hundred and forty acres in Oklahoma and eighty acres in Nebraska. He removed to Decatur county in 1902 and is well known as a real-estate dealer of Lamoni. He has gained more than a competence and takes the greater pride

in his success because it has been achieved through his own industry and sound judgment. He has given much attention to raising stock and has also invested wisely in land, profiting by the great increase in land values in the middle west. He has given four of his children eighty acres of land each and leases the four hundred and eighty acres in Ringgold county which he still owns. He also has two business properties in Lamoni.

Mr. Brown was married on the 11th of April, 1872, to Miss Mary Ellen Moulton, who was born on the 8th of December, 1849, near Peoria, Illinois, and who accompanied her parents to Ringgold county when six years of age. The family settled in Athens township, and the father was an extensive and successful farmer, but has passed away, as has his wife also. To Mr. and Mrs. Brown have been born seven children, two of whom are deceased, those living being as follows: E. A., a merchant of Eldorado Springs, Missouri, is married and has three children. Perry O., who owns the homestead in Ringgold county and is engaged in the breeding of shorthorn cattle, is married and has one child. Nora B. is the wife of A. J. Hawes, a ranchman of Spray, Oregon, by whom she has two children. O. O., a member of the law firm of Folk & Brown, of Stockton, Missouri, is married and has two children. Effie is the wife of Curtis Olsen, a pharmacist of St. Joseph, Missouri.

Mr. Brown is a democrat and is much interested in everything relating to the public welfare. He belongs to Holiness church, but he and his wife attend the Methodist Episcopal church at Lamoni and take an active interest in its work.

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### OLIVER W. FOXWORTHY, M. D.

Dr. Oliver W. Foxworthy, a prominent and able representative of the medical profession in Decatur county, Iowa, has been continuously engaged in practice at Leon for the past thirteen years. His birth occurred in Mercer county, Missouri, on the 8th of February, 1855. His father, Mason Foxworthy, was a native of Kentucky and removed with his parents to Indiana when a youth of about ten years. Subsequently, in 1854, he took up his abode among the pioneer settlers of Mercer county, Missouri, and in 1860 came to Decatur county, Iowa. In 1871 he located at Lineville, Iowa, and there spent the remainder of his life, passing away on the 8th of January, 1902, when eighty-one years of age. His wife still survives



at the age of eighty-eight and is well known and highly esteemed throughout the communities in which she has resided. To them were born nine children, as follows: Mary F.; Jane, who died at the age of six years; Amanda, who passed away when four years old; Oliver W., of this review; Victor E.; Louella, the wife of A. L. Lesan; William, who died when a lad of six years; Rosa, who passed away at the age of twenty-one; and Nelly, who gave her hand in marriage to A. E. Jordan.

Oliver W. Foxworthy, who was but five years of age when his parents established their home in this county, acquired his education in the graded and high schools of Lineville, Wayne county, and subsequently followed the profession of teaching for three years. He then entered the State Normal School at Kirksville, Missouri, and was graduated from that institution with the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1881. Having determined upon a professional career, he began reading medicine under the direction of Dr. E. Glendenning, of Lineville, Iowa, and later entered the Physicians and Surgeons Medical College of Keokuk, Iowa, from which he was graduated on the 26th of February, 1884. On the 1st of April following he began practice at Weldon, Decatur county, Iowa, and in 1892 pursued a post-graduate course in the Chicago Polyclinic College, while subsequently, in 1902, he did post-graduate work in the Chicago Post-Graduate Medical College of Chicago. In 1902 he located at Leon, Iowa, and has here remained continuously since, enjoying a large and lucrative practice. With the steady progress of the profession he keeps in close touch through his membership in the Decatur County Medical Society, the Southwestern Medical Association, the Iowa State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, and for five years he served as councilor for the eighth congressional district of the Iowa State Medical Society. The Doctor is a man of large means and owns several farms which he leases and which return to him a handsome income.

On the 13th of April, 1879, Dr. Foxworthy was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Elizabeth Willis. Her father was a native of Hanover county, Virginia, and an agriculturist by occupation. Dr. and Mrs. Foxworthy have one daughter, Ollie Elizabeth, who is a graduate of the Leon high school and now attends Drake University.

Dr. Foxworthy gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is an active worker in its ranks, having several times served as a delegate to the state and other conventions of the party. For four years he acted as chairman of the republican county central committee of Decatur county, and he has made a number of cam-



paign speeches, especially in opposition to the liquor traffic. For several years he has served as a member of the school board, acting as its president for one year, and for several years he also held the office of trustee of Franklin township. From 1912 until 1914 he served as mayor of Leon, Iowa, giving to the town a most public-spirited and beneficial administration, characterized by many measures of reform and improvement. In fraternal circles he is prominently known as a Mason, having passed the chairs in the blue lodge and been a representative thereof to the grand lodge and having served as treasurer of Tripolis Commandery No. 60, K. T., for many years. He is also affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. Through professional, public and fraternal connections Dr. Foxworthy has become so widely and favorably known that his record cannot fail to prove of interest to the great majority of our readers.

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### WALTER G. BADHAM.

Walter G. Badham, of Lamoni, Decatur county, is engaged in the real-estate, bond and insurance business, maintaining his office in the Farmers State Bank building, and is extensively interested in stock-raising in connection with his brother. A native of Henderson, Iowa, he was born on the 4th of August, 1892, of the marriage of A. and Melvina J. (Peck) Badham. The paternal grandfather, Samuel Badham, emigrated from England to the United States and made his way to Mills county, Iowa, where he became a pioneer settler. He was very successful as a farmer and was prominent in his community. During the Mexican war he served in the United States army and proved a valiant soldier. His son, A. Badham, was born in Mills county, Iowa, and spent his entire life upon the homestead, where he passed away in the fall of 1909, at the age of fifty-six years. His widow, who is now fifty-nine years old, is residing with her son in Lamoni. Her parents, who were ardent members of the colony of Latter Day Saints at Nauvoo, accompanied their coreligionists on their removal to Utah and there her father passed away. In 1868 her mother returned to Iowa and later affiliated with the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints. Mrs. Badham was about twelve years of age when she removed from Utah to Mills county, Iowa, in 1868, and she resided at Glenwood until her marriage. Our subject has four sisters who have passed away and two

sisters and a brother living, namely: M. V., who is engaged in stock-raising in Fayette township in partnership with our subject; Mrs. Joseph Roberts, of Lamoni; and Mrs. H. S. Gamet, of Woodbine, Iowa.

Walter G. Badham was reared in Mills county, Iowa, but in 1908, when sixteen years of age, entered Graceland College at Lamoni, Decatur county, having previously graduated from high school in Mills county. After completing his education he turned his attention to the real-estate, bond and insurance business, in which he has been engaged for the last three years. He deals chiefly in local real estate and general insurance, and as he keeps well informed as to the property on the market and represents insurance companies of high standing, he is doing a good business. He is engaged in the stock business in connection with his brother, M. V. Badham, and they ship many cattle annually.

On the 1st of June, 1913, Mr. Badham married Miss Lois Elizabeth Smith, a daughter of Heman C. and Vida Smith, further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work. To Mr. and Mrs. Badham was born a son, Robert George, whose birth occurred on the 20th of March, 1914. The demise of the wife and mother occurred on the 27th of March, 1914, and her passing was sincerely regretted by all who knew her.

Mr. Badham is a republican and is stalwart in his defense of the principles of that party. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Pythias of Lamoni and his religious faith is that of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints, of which his wife was also a member. Mr. Badham is one of the youngest business men of Lamoni and is also one of the most energetic and most successful, and is held in high esteem by those who are brought into contact with him by business dealings or social relations.

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### JAMES F. HARVEY.

James F. Harvey, a well known attorney and vice president of the Farmers & Traders Bank of Leon, is a native son of that city, born on the 1st of June, 1877, of the marriage of the late John W. and Emma E. (Eaton) Harvey. A sketch of the father, who was a prominent attorney, judge and banker of Decatur county, occurs elsewhere in this work.

James F. Harvey was educated in the public and high schools of Leon, the Northwestern Military Academy and the State University of Iowa, graduating from the law department of the last named institution with the class of 1901. In that year he was admitted to the bar and formed a partnership with his father in the practice of law under the name of John W. Harvey & Son. Since his father's demise he has been alone in practice. He is also connected with financial interests, as he is vice president of the Farmers & Traders Bank and takes an active part in the management of the institution. His interests also connect him with other enterprises in the county and he is a stockholder in the Decatur County Journal. In 1910 he was elected mayor of Leon and for two years served in that office, doing much in that time for the improvement of the streets and sewers of his city.

In 1908 Mr. Harvey married Miss Josephine Slattery, a daughter of Mrs. Margaret Slattery, of Chicago, and to this union have been born three children, Florence, Helen and John W.

Mr. Harvey gives his political adherence to the republican party, in the soundness of whose principles he believes. A prominent member of the Masonic order, he has been master of his lodge and he is also a Knight Templar Mason and a Noble of the Mystic Shrine. The Leon Commercial Club counts him among its enthusiastic members, he being president of that organization at the present time, and he is in hearty sympathy with its aims and purpose, believing that the commercial and business expansion of Leon should be promoted in every way possible. Mr. Harvey is also a member of the Beta Theta Pi, a well known college fraternity. Like his father before him, he is a conspicuous figure in the life of his city and is carrying on the family tradition of public-spirited devotion to the general good and of efficient and conscientious performance of duty.

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### HEMAN C. SMITH.

Heman C. Smith, author, minister, editor and lecturer, was born in Gillespie county, Texas, at what was then the town of Zodiac, September 27, 1850. His father, Spencer Smith, son of Heman and Clarissa (Goodale) Smith, was born in Tioga county, New York, December 14, 1817. His mother was Anna Christiana Wight, daughter of Colonel Lyman and Harriet (Benton) Wight. She

was also a native of New York, born at Centerville, Allegany county, September 30, 1825.

Although born in the south, Mr. Smith was a thorough New Englander in ancestry, tracing his descent from over thirty families who landed on Puritan soil in the first twenty-five years of settlement. These men were among the founders of Plymouth, Boston, Watertown, Salem, Dorchester, Ipswich, Dedham, Medfield, Eastham, Hingham, Newbury, Roxbury, Amesbury, Northampton and Deerfield in Massachusetts; of Windsor, Wethersfield, Guilford, New Haven and Woodstock of Connecticut.

Among the most prominent were Stephen Hopkins, one of the Mayflower Pilgrims and signer of the first compact of free government in the history of America; John Chedsey, deacon of the first church in New Haven and a signer of the Connecticut state constitution of 1643, the first written constitution in our history; and William Phelps, an organizer of Dorchester, Massachusetts, in 1630, the first town in America to have an organized government, also a founder of Windsor, Connecticut, in 1635 and for a long time its chief magistrate.

That branch of the numberless Smiths to which Heman C. belongs had its American beginning with Ralph Smith, who came to Plymouth in 1633 from Hingham, England, and settled finally in Eastham in Cape Cod, where his son, Samuel, died in 1696, his grandson, John, in 1734, and his great-grandson, Samuel, about 1760. The family intermarried with the families of Hopkins, Deane and Snow.

The son of Samuel Smith, Heman, was born at Eastham in 1741, emigrated to Berkshire Hills and settled at Sandisfield, Massachusetts, before the Revolution. He was captain of a company of the first Berkshire county regiment in the war and in 1793 helped found the town of Berkshire in Tioga county, New York, where he died in 1833. His son, Heman, married Clarissa, daughter of Isaac Goodale, another Revolutionary soldier. They were the grandparents of Heman C.

Upon his mother's side, Mr. Smith was descended from Thomas Wight, who came to Watertown, Massachusetts, before 1635, descended from a family of knights with holdings in Surrey, England, since the twelfth century. Thomas Wight helped found Dedham and Medfield and was one of the original donors of "Indian corns for ye building of ye new brick college at Cambridge's in 1636." He died at Medfield in 1673. His son, Ephraim Wight, died at the same place in 1722, his grandson Nathaniel moved to Killingly, Connecticut, about 1725. Nathaniel's son, Levi Wight (1712-1797),



died at Oxford, Connecticut, and his grandson, also Levi Wight, born in 1761, moved about 1794 to Herkimer county, New York, and died in Allegany county, New York, in 1830. The son of this Levi Wight was Lyman Wight, born in 1796 at Fairfield, New York. He served in the War of 1812 at Sacket Harbor and Lundys Lane. He joined the Latter Day Saints church in Ohio and affiliated with that church in Ohio, Missouri, and Nauvoo, Illinois. In Missouri, in 1838, he was commissioned captain of militia by Governor Boggs and fought vigorously to prevent the Missouri mob from seizing his land and that of his fellow believers. He was made an apostle in the church in 1841 and after the death of Joseph Smith, in 1844, he refused to recognize the claims of Brigham Young and led a small band of settlers into Texas in 1845. Here his grandson, Heman C. Smith, was born. He lived with his parents in the counties of Gillespie, Burnett, Llano and Bandera, Texas, until the spring of 1858, when his father, discerning the probability of war between the states and preferring to be on the northern side of the line, moved northward by team, making a temporary home in the Cherokee country of Indian Territory until the autumn of 1860, when he moved into Jasper county, Missouri, and engaged in the milling business. Warned again by the spirit of approaching hostilities, he started northward in the spring of 1861 as soon as grass was sufficiently large to support his team and other stock. This time he got well within the northern lines, making his first permanent stop on the Boyer river in Crawford county, Iowa, just opposite where the town of Arion is now located.

After a few years in Crawford county, residing at different points, the family removed to Shelby county, where they resided at Gallands Grove in Grove township until Heman arrived at his majority. There being a large family to support and his father being a man of limited means, he was obliged to labor on the farm during the summer months, but he improved the winter months in attending the common schools and was always at the head of his classes, especially in mathematics and history.

At the age of twelve years he became a member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and very early in life became an earnest advocate of the faith promulgated by this church, in the days of Joseph Smith, and an uncompromising opponent of polygamy and kindred ideas introduced by Brigham Young and associates.

He entered the ministry in the spring of 1874 and was occupied constantly in the missionary field until 1909, when he was released to



serve more exclusively in his position as general historian of the church, to which he had been elected in 1897.

During his missionary work he traveled extensively throughout the United States and the British Isles, always ranking among the leading preachers of his faith. Since devoting himself to historic work he has gained considerable prominence among men of that class. He is now, in addition to being the authorized historian of the church of his choice, a member of the Mississippi Valley Historical Society, the Iowa State Historical Society, the Nebraska State Historical Society, the Topsfield Historical Society, of Topsfield, Massachusetts, the American Church Historical Society, with headquarters at New York city, the National Geographical Society and secretary of the Decatur County (Iowa) Historical Society. He is also editor of the *Journal of History*, published at Lamoni, Iowa, by the reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; president of the board of trustees of Saints Children's Home of Lamoni, Iowa; fellow of American and Church History of Graceland College, Iowa, as well as serving on several boards and committees in church work.

Mr. Smith is the author of the authorized history of the Latter Day Saint church, in four volumes; "The Truth Defended," "True Succession in Church Presidency," as also many pamphlets and tracts, besides numerous articles for church and historical magazines.

He was married, June 2, 1886, at Independence, Missouri, to Miss Vida Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Alexander Hale and Elizabeth (Kendall) Smith and granddaughter of Joseph Smith, the "Mormon" prophet. Mrs. Smith has been a sympathetic, able associate of her husband in all his activities. She is the author of the "Young Peoples History of the Church" and an author and poet of extraordinary ability, her songs being favorites in the Sunday-school services of her church.

After their marriage, Mr. Smith was in charge of the missionary work in the Pacific coast and made his home at San Bernardino, California, where the following children were born: Heman Hale, April 28, 1887, now a teacher of economics and modern history in Lincoln high school of Seattle, Washington; Vida Inez, January 16, 1889, now the wife of James W. Davis, of Honolulu, Hawaii; Anna Earlita, November 28, 1890, now Mrs. Evan E. Inslee, of Seattle, Washington; Lois Elizabeth, November 3, 1892, who married Walter G. Badham, of Lamoni, Iowa, and died March 27, 1914.

The family removed in 1893 to the present home of Mr. Smith at Lamoni. In addition to his other work Mr. Smith has found time to take an active part in local affairs and in politics. He has served

his community as member of the school board, president of college trustees and member of the city council. In politics he has been allied with the Bryan democrats since the campaign of 1896, although he stands for non-partisanship in all local affairs. He is often chairman of party conventions and in 1910 made the race for the legislature, cutting a normal republican majority of four hundred to one hundred and thirty-three.

As an orator he is always in demand at celebrations, political campaigns and at old settlers' and soldiers' reunions. As a debater he has a long record of discussions with opponents of the Latter Day Saints.

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### CHARLEY W. KELLY.

Charley W. Kelly owns and operates eighty acres of good land in Grand River township, which he operates in addition to the Emma Shewmaker farm, adjoining his own holdings. He was born in Van Buren county, Iowa, April 9, 1870, of the marriage of Richard and Sarah Jane (Nicholson) Kelly. His father was born in Virginia but when sixteen years of age removed to Iowa, and about 1875 settled in Decatur county, where he remained for a number of years. He owned different tracts of land and was quite successful financially. Later he was for two years a resident of Oklahoma, after which he took up his abode in Ringgold county, Iowa, where he was living at the time of his death in August, 1907, when he had reached the age of seventy-two years. During the Civil war he served in the Twenty-fifth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, remaining at the front for almost four years. His political belief was that of the republican party and he gave his religious allegiance to the United Brethren church. Through his membership in the Grand Army of the Republic he kept in touch with others who had served the country in her hour of need. His wife was born in Indiana but when a child accompanied her parents to Van Buren county, Iowa, whence the family subsequently removed to Ringgold county, where both of her parents died. She passed to her reward in October, 1910, when sixty-eight years of age. Her religious faith was that of the Methodist church. Eight of the ten children born to Richard and Sarah Jane Kelly survive, namely: Drue and Guy, residents of Decatur township; Charley W.; Mrs. Ella Ferguson, of Arispe, Iowa; Mrs. Mary Avery, residing in Los Angeles, California; Mrs. Jessie Hembry, whose home is in Decatur

township, this county; Mrs. Gussie Lowder, of Fort Dodge, Iowa; and Mrs. Prudence Goodman, of Clearfield, this state.

Charley W. Kelly was five years of age when brought to this county and here grew to maturity. Through assisting his father with the work of the home farm he gained knowledge which proved of great value to him when he started out farming on his own account. He now operates one hundred and fifty acres, eighty of which he owns, the remainder comprising the Emma Shewmaker farm, which adjoins his place. He carries on general farming and stock-raising and derives a good income annually from the sale of his grain and stock.

Mr. Kelly was married, at Benton, Iowa, on the 1st of February, 1897, to Miss Minnie M. Brooks, who was born at Fort Dodge on the 8th of December, 1877. Her parents, Philander and Susan (Middleton) Brooks, who were natives respectively of Illinois and of Ohio, came to Iowa in the early '70s and took up their residence near Fort Dodge. In 1886 they removed to Kansas and after residing in Sumner and Cowley counties, that state, they removed to Major county, Oklahoma, where they are now living, he at the age of fifty-nine years and she at the age of fifty-six years. He is by occupation a gardener. Eight of the nine children born to them survive, namely: Mrs. Kelly; Mrs. Kate Monroe; Mrs. Lucy Curtright, of Grand River township, this county; Joseph, residing in Arkansas; Ernest, of Coffeyville, Kansas; Mrs. Rose Bushnell; Jessie, who married Claire Martin, a farmer of Major county, Oklahoma; and Mrs. Goldie Garrett, whose husband is engaged in farming near Mingo, Oklahoma. Mrs. Kelly spent the greater part of her girlhood in Kansas and attended the public schools in the acquirement of an education. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly have an adopted son, Harland H. Kelly, who is fourteen years of age.

Mr. Kelly is a republican and has served as trustee of Grand River township. Fraternally he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America of Grand River. He is highly respected by his fellow citizens and there are many who hold him in warm regard.

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### JAMES F. GILL.

James F. Gill, who for four years served the county well as auditor, is now residing upon his farm in Garden Grove township. He was born upon a farm near Columbus, Ohio, on the 1st of February, 1867, a son of A. P. and Victoria (Spellman) Gill. The father

farmed in Ohio and after removing to Warren county, Iowa, in 1869, continued to follow agricultural pursuits. His wife passed away in that county, but he subsequently settled in Oklahoma, where he was living at the time of his demise. He was a republican in political belief and both he and his wife held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. During the Civil war he fought for the preservation of the Union as a member of an Ohio regiment and his wife's only brother, John Spellman, was made a captain before he was twenty years of age. Spellman Post, G. A. R., at Columbus, Ohio, is named in his honor. To Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Gill were born six children: J. B., a resident of Fargo, North Dakota; Mrs. Florence Shepard, of Sedgwick, Kansas; Mrs. May Wood, of Sioux City, Iowa; James F.; Mrs. Bird Simpson, of Piedmont, Oklahoma; and George, of Corpus Christi, Texas. The paternal grandparents of our subject resided near Hilliards, Ohio.

James F. Gill received his early education in the public schools of Warren County, Iowa, later completing the course in the Normal School at Garden Grove. For several years he taught in Garden Grove but in 1891 he went to Oklahoma, where he taught and also homesteaded a claim. In 1894 he returned to Garden Grove, but the following year went to Winterset and established the Winterset Reporter, which paper he conducted until March, 1896, when he sold out. Under his management the Reporter gained a place among the reliable papers of Madison county and it is now one of the leading journals of that section. After selling the Reporter Mr. Gill resumed teaching, but in 1900 he was elected auditor of Decatur county, being reelected in 1902 and during the four years that he filled that position the work of the office was done promptly, accurately and systematically. Upon the expiration of his second term he became connected with an implement store in Garden Grove but only remained there a year. Since 1906 he has resided upon his farm in Garden Grove township and has devoted much attention to breeding high grade Belgian horses. He has some of the finest Belgian mares in the county and his influence has done much to improve the standard of horses raised in his locality. He also raises Duroc-Jersey hogs and derives a good income from his stock-raising interests. He owns eighty acre of land adjoining Garden Grove and also operates one hundred and ten acres of rented land.

In February, 1895, Mr. Gill married at Garden Grove, Miss Lenore Northrup, who was born in 1870, a daughter of A. C. and Melissa (Brown) Northrup, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Mrs. Gill was reared at Garden Grove and received



her education in the public schools there and in the Normal School and for eight years prior to her marriage engaged in teaching. Mr. and Mrs. Gill have two sons. G. Deane, a graduate of the Garden Grove high school of the class of 1913, also studied for a year at Denver University and is now teaching in this county. Lester N. graduated from the high school at Garden Grove with the class of 1915.

Mr. Gill is a republican and is an active worker in the party ranks. Fraternally he belongs to the Masonic order and his wife is identified with the Order of the Eastern Star and also with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Mr. and Mrs. Gill are both adherents of the Presbyterian church and their cooperation can be depended upon to further movements seeking the advancement of their community along moral lines. Mr. Gill is very energetic and this trait, combined with his foresight and sound judgment, has enabled him to win a gratifying measure of success.

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### MARION J. THOMPSON.

There was much sincere regret when Marion J. Thompson was called to his final reward, for he was a man of high principle, an excellent citizen and a successful farmer of Grand River township. His birth occurred in Putnam county, Indiana, in November, 1838, and his parents were Hugh and Sallie (Martin) Thompson, both natives of Kentucky. They removed to Indiana and there the father followed farming for many years. Both passed away in that state.

Marion J. Thompson was reared under the parental roof and received his education in the public schools of his native state. At the time of the Civil war he enlisted in Company C, One Hundredth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served for two years at the front. He then followed the carpenter's trade until 1873, when he removed to Boone county, Iowa. After farming there for some time he came to Decatur county and for two years cultivated rented land. At the expiration of that period his finances were in such a condition that he was able to buy land in Grand River township, which he cultivated efficiently and successfully until his demise on the 27th of June, 1887.

Mr. Thompson was married in March, 1876, to Miss Mary L. Gammon, a daughter of George and Martha (Robinson) Gammon, natives respectively of Tennessee and Indiana. The father followed agricultural pursuits and became a resident of Monroe county, this



state, in an early day, remaining there until 1865, when he removed to this county. He purchased a farm in Eden township, to the operation of which he gave his time and energies until his death, which occurred in August, 1895. His wife died in October, 1894.

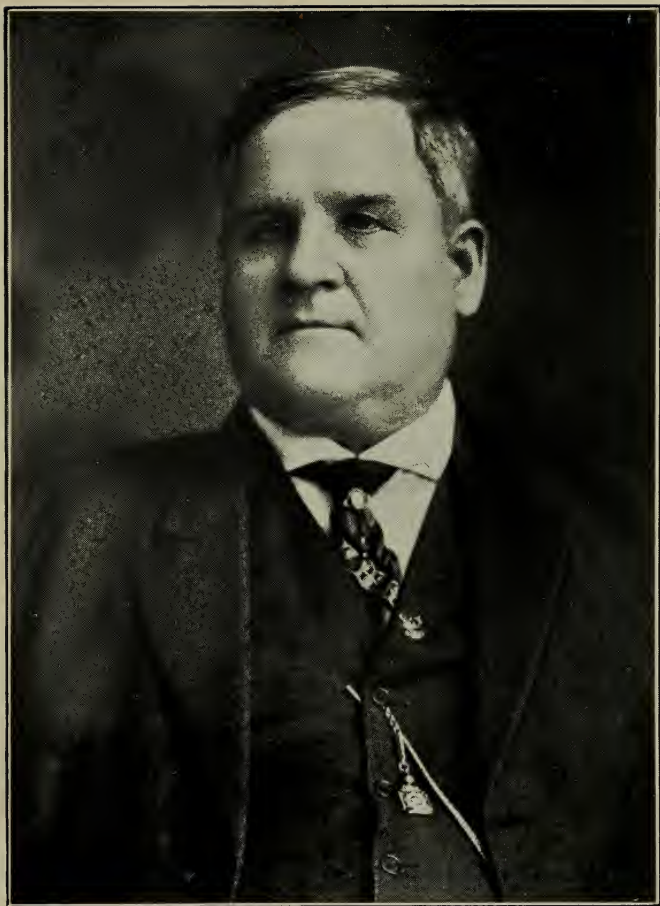
Mr. Thompson was a member of the Masonic lodge and through his identification with the Grand Army of the Republic kept in touch with his comrades of the '60s. His political faith was that of the republican party and his church membership was held in the Christian church. Although many years have passed since his demise his memory is still cherished by those who knew him, for he possessed the characteristics which invariably win enduring regard. Following his demise Mrs. Thompson sold the home farm and purchased one hundred and seventy-five acres of land on sections 1 and 2, Eden township, the buildings being on section 2. She is well known in this county and those who know her most intimately hold her in the highest regard.

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### GEORGE P. CAMPBELL.

George P. Campbell is prominent in business circles of Davis City and Decatur county, being recognized as a reliable and successful real-estate and insurance agent and also as an able executive, as he manages wisely the affairs of the local telephone company, which he owns. He is likewise prominent in fraternal circles and has held state office in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He was born on the 8th of May, 1852, in Crawford county, Ohio, a son of Asa D. and Nancy (Landon) Campbell, natives of Pennsylvania. The father, who was a carpenter by trade, operated a farm and worked at carpentering until 1869, when he removed to Pleasanton, Decatur county, Iowa, where he continued to reside until his demise in 1881. His widow survived until the 26th of March, 1894, passing away at Leon.

George P. Campbell was reared in Ohio and in Pleasanton, Iowa, and during his boyhood and youth acquired a good common school education. He drove across the country from Ohio to Iowa ahead of his parents and after completing his schooling in Pleasanton went to Missouri, where he was employed by a railroad for two years. At the end of that time he returned to Pleasanton and learned the wagonmaker's trade in his father-in-law's shop. He followed that occupation for two and a half years, but after the death of his wife



GEORGE P. CAMPBELL



turned his attention to school teaching, in which he was engaged for ten terms. He also worked to some extent at painting and plastering. For two years he was a traveling salesman but at the end of that time he located at Davis City and went to work with a bridge gang. After eight and a half years he was made section foreman, which position he held for four years. In the fall of 1892, he purchased the real-estate, insurance and collecting business which he now conducts from J. N. Gates and has since given the greater part of his time and energy to those interests. In 1895 he started a telephone company in Davis City and had the first telephone installed on the line placed in his office. He still owns that business, which has grown to considerable size and which has given its subscribers excellent service at reasonable rates.

On the 28th of August, 1873, Mr. Campbell married Miss Martha E. Horn, a daughter of Elisha and Eliza (Walker) Horn, natives of Indiana, who in 1851 removed to Missouri and in 1855 came to Pleasanton, Decatur county, Iowa. The father was a wagonmaker and followed his trade in Pleasanton until his death, which occurred in March, 1899. His widow passed away in April, 1911. He was a soldier in both the Mexican and Civil wars and was always characterized by public spirit. Mrs. Campbell died on the 10th of April, 1877, and on the 27th of October, 1881, Mr. Campbell married Miss Mae Sowash, a daughter of Jacob and Mary (Bouslog) Sowash, natives of Pennsylvania, who were numbered among the early settlers of Decatur county, Iowa. However, in 1875, they left this county and removed to Taylor county. They resided in many different places, as the father was of a disposition that desired change, but following the demise of his wife he made his home with our subject for seventeen years, dying on the 21st of August, 1904. Mr. and Mrs. Campbell have had three children: Beatrice, the wife of Reuben H. Martz, an engineer residing at Chariton, Iowa; Clara M., who died on the 20th of December, 1885; and Carl E., who passed away on the 7th of July, 1888.

Mr. Campbell is a republican and is one of the leaders in the local ranks of that party. He has been a member of the city council and has also served as mayor, giving the municipality an administration characterized by energy and businesslike efficiency. For a number of years he has been justice of the peace and his decisions are based upon law and fact and are entirely free from personal bias. He belongs to the Masonic blue lodge at Davis City, the chapter and commandery in the York Rite at Leon, and also holds membership in the chapter of the Eastern Star at Davis City. He is the present

grand patriarch of the grand encampment of Iowa of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and also holds membership in a number of other orders, including the Modern Woodmen of America, the Yeomen and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church which profits by his moral support and material aid. He has much force of character and carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes, as he is not deterred by obstacles which it is possible to surmount by well planned and persistent effort.

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### WILLIAM J. MATHER, D. D. S.

For about two decades Dr. William J. Mather has been engaged in the practice of dentistry at Lamoni and has built up one of the largest clienteles in the county. He was born in Ontario, Canada, on the 15th of April, 1874, a son of Ralph and Margaret (Moffat) Mather, of English and Scotch parentage respectively. The birth of the father occurred in England but the mother was born in Canada. Both have passed to their reward. All of their nine children are living, four residing in Canada and five in this country. The subject of this review, however, is the only one in Decatur county. His uncle, Dr. J. W. Mather, who is residing at Lamoni, is a well known dentist of Decatur county, where he has practiced for about forty years.

Dr. William J. Mather received his general education in Canada and on deciding upon his life work entered the Western Dental College at Kansas City, where he remained until 1897. He then practiced in Iowa, having a state board license, and he proved an able and efficient dentist. In 1905, however, he returned to the Western Dental College and completed his course, receiving his professional degree in 1906. He then returned to Lamoni, where he is still practicing, and since 1899 he has maintained his offices in the same building, which is on the site of the old postoffice.

Dr. Mather was married at Lamoni to Miss Alta May Gaylord, who was born near Shenandoah, in Page county, Iowa, a daughter of E. B. and Mary Gaylord, who are now residents of Lamoni. For many years they lived in Page county and there their daughter, Alta May, was reared and educated. They have now retired from active life and are spending their remaining days in rest and leisure. To Dr. and Mrs. Mather have been born two daughters, Margaret and Maxine.



Dr. Mather is a republican and for four years was a member of the city council of Lamoni. He was one of the promoters and organizers of the Commercial club, of which he was president for two years, and for many years he served as a member of its executive board, doing much to aid in the work of that organization, which has been a forceful factor in the development of Lamoni. He is also secretary of the Lamoni Telephone Company and is recognized as an able business man. He owns one of the finest residences in Lamoni and has gained financial as well as professional success. Fraternally he is identified with the Masonic order, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, and his religious faith is that of the Latter Day Saints' church. His life has been so worthily lived that he holds the complete confidence and good will of all who have been associated with him and he is a valued resident of his town.

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### JAMES H. STOVER.

James H. Stover farmed in this county for a number of years and at the time of his demise was residing upon his homestead of eighty-six acres on section 2, Hamilton township. He was born in Clarksburg, West Virginia, April 16, 1851, a son of the Rev. Jacob and Elizabeth Stover, the latter a native of Ohio. The father, whose birth occurred in West Virginia, removed to Ohio with his family when our subject was but a child and there both he and his wife passed away.

James H. Stover grew to manhood in the Buckeye state and there attended the public schools in the acquirement of an education. He was married in Ohio in 1877 and continued to reside there, devoting his time to agricultural pursuits until 1885, when he came with his family to Decatur county, Iowa, locating in the vicinity of Leon. For some time he operated a farm in Center township but subsequently removed to Eden township and in 1902 purchased the farm of eighty-six acres on section 2, Hamilton township, which his family still owns. He was not privileged to enjoy his new home for very long as his demise occurred on the 11th of June, 1903. He carried on general farming and stock-raising and met with gratifying success therein, as he was both practical and progressive and was unremitting in his labor.

Mr. Stover was married on the 13th of December, 1877, in South Plymouth, Fayette county, Ohio, to Miss Caroline C. Hill, a daughter of McIntosh Hill, who was a son of Abraham Hill. The last named was a son of Isaac Hill, a farmer of Maryland. Abraham Hill was born in that state and was by profession a trained nurse. His wife bore the maiden name of Mary Brittain and was a native of Pennsylvania. Their son, McIntosh Hill, was born in Washington county, Ohio, and during his early manhood followed the carpenter's trade although he later gave his attention to farming. During the Civil war he enlisted at Marietta, Ohio, in Company I, Thirty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served with credit to himself for three years. In 1871 he removed to Fayette county, Ohio, where he followed the carpenter's trade and farmed until 1886, in which year he emigrated westward, locating in Wayne county, Iowa, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits for fifteen years. At the expiration of that period he came to Decatur county and purchased land in Hamilton township, where he resided for three years, or until his death, which occurred on the 15th of February, 1905. He was of Irish and Pennsylvania-Dutch ancestry. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Lovina Johnston, was a daughter of Peter and Comfort Johnston, natives respectively of West Virginia and of Maine. Her maternal grandmother bore the maiden name of Lois Cottle and was also born in the Pine Tree state. Mr. and Mrs. Peter Johnston removed westward to Indiana in their youth and there their marriage was solemnized. Their daughter Lovina was married to McIntosh Hill in Washington county, Ohio. Her demise occurred in 1909, in Pleasanton, Iowa, where she had removed following the death of her husband. They were the parents of eight children, six of whom survive: Hannah Elizabeth, who makes her home with her sister, Mrs. Stover, the next in order of birth; Orin J., who is following agricultural pursuits in Hamilton township and a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; John M., a resident of Custer, Oklahoma; George C., of Davis City, an account of whose life is given on another page of this volume; and James Henry, a carpenter living in Mercer county, Missouri.

To Mr. and Mrs. Stover were born twelve children, as follows. Samuel H., born September 23, 1878, is now a successful osteopath of Northfield, Minnesota. He received his professional training in the School of Osteopathy at Kirksville, Missouri, of which he is a graduate. He married Miss Anna Hanning and they have a daughter, Carrol Harriet. Ralph L., born March 22, 1880, is a telegraph operator and is stationed at Smithville, Texas. He married Miss

Legene Murray and their three children are Raymond, Cleve and Ludie Caroline. Harry R., born August 2, 1881, is at home and operates the farm for his mother. He married Marian J. Huston, a daughter of Francis M. and Sophronia (Warner) Huston. Mr. Huston is now deceased but his widow is a resident of Pleasanton. Maude, who was born January 30, 1883, is teaching in Eden township. Ethel, born December 20, 1884, is the wife of J. H. McDaniel, a farmer of Burrell township. They have five children: Leland R., Harrold, Phelma, Mildred, and Forrest. The next in order of birth was a son, who was born November 23, 1886, and who died in infancy. George was born March 5, 1888, and is now living in Des Moines. He married Gail Speers. Pearl, born November 16, 1889, gave her hand in marriage to Edward Bright, a farmer of Lineville, Iowa, by whom she has two children, Earldine and Vera Doris. Lovina, born December 26, 1891, married Earl Howell, a farmer of Salina, Kansas. Willard Arthur, born November 25, 1894, was graduated from the Leon high school with the class of 1915. Mabel, whose birth occurred on the 17th of September, 1896, is a student in the Leon high school. Walter, the youngest of the family, was born February 27, 1899, and is also attending the local high school.

Mr. Stover was a republican in politics and was active in the work of his party. He served as a director of his school district while living in Eden township and was highly esteemed and respected by all who knew him. Fraternally he was identified with the Knights of Pythias and Odd Fellows lodges at Leon and his religious faith was that of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his wife also belongs. He gained financial independence and was recognized as one of the up-to-date and efficient farmers of the county. His personality was such that he readily made and gained friends and there was never the slightest question as to his integrity. Since his demise his wife has continued to reside upon the home place and with the aid of her children is operating the farm, proving herself a woman of excellent business ability and of marked force of character.

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### MYRON PHELPS, M. D.

Dr. Myron Phelps, who is the leading physician and surgeon of Van Wert, was born in Waterloo, Iowa, February 17, 1866, a son of Stephen and Amelia (McComb) Phelps. The father was born February 6, 1839, in Fulton county, Illinois, of English stock and

for over fifty years has been a minister of the Presbyterian church, having been ordained in 1861 at Sioux City, Iowa. He made a thorough educational preparation for his life work and is a graduate of Washington and Jefferson College of Washington, Pennsylvania. He has continued an earnest student of men and affairs and was for eight years president of Coe College at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. His clear insight into conditions and his power of constructive thought have been recognized and he is a prominent figure in his church in the middle west. He has gained considerable reputation as a speaker and has addressed many important gatherings. Although he was for eight years president of Coe College, as before stated, the greater part of his life has been devoted to pastoral work and he has served the charges at Sioux City, Waterloo, Cedar Rapids and Council Bluffs, Iowa, and is now pastor of the church at Bellevue, Nebraska. He was married in Fulton county, Illinois, to Miss Amelia McComb, who was born on the 27th of December, 1838, and who died at Vinton, Iowa, three decades ago. Subsequently he married Miss Sadie Miller, of Vinton, who is still living.

Dr. Myron Phelps acquired his early education in the public schools and was later for several years a student at Coe College at Cedar Rapids. Upon leaving that institution he entered the Iowa State University, from which he was graduated in the class of 1891 with the degree of M. D. He first located for practice at Harlan, Iowa, and remained there for two years, but in the fall of 1893 he came to Van Wert, where he has since remained. He has advanced steadily in his profession and as his knowledge and skill have grown his practice has increased proportionately and he is now recognized as the foremost physician and surgeon of this place. He has never allowed himself to think that his student days are over, but has continued to read widely along the lines of medical science and has kept informed of the advance which is continually being made in the knowledge of the cause and cure of disease.

Dr. Phelps was married in 1897 to Miss Olive Blades, a daughter of W. J. and Agnes (Rockhold) Blades, the former a native of Kentucky. He was a farmer by occupation and located on land in Decatur county, Iowa, at an early day in the history of this section. During the Civil war he served as a member of an Iowa regiment but after he had been at the front a year his leg was broken by a kick from a horse and he was honorably discharged from the army. He returned to the farm in Long Creek township, this county, which he had entered from the government before the war, and again gave his attention to agricultural pursuits. He passed away on his place, which com-



prised two hundred and eighty acres of excellent land, on the 25th of December, 1912. His wife was a native of Fulton county, Illinois, but their marriage occurred at Mount Pleasant, Henry county, Iowa. She is now making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Phelps.

Dr. Phelps is independent in politics, voting for the candidate whom he deems best suited for the office in question without regard to his political affiliation. He belongs to the Decatur County Medical Society and for two terms was health physician of Van Wert, doing much valuable work in behalf of public hygiene during his connection with that office. His wife is a member of the Christian church. During the two decades and more that Dr. Phelps has resided in Van Wert he has not only won an enviable professional reputation but has also gained the respect of and warm regard of all with whom he has come in contact.

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### E. W. GAUNT.

E. W. Gaunt, one of the successful agriculturists and influential citizens of Garden Grove township, has been a resident of the county for more than four decades and has devoted his attention to general farming throughout his entire business career. His birth occurred in Eureka, Illinois, on the 3d of May, 1855, his parents being John D. and Judith A. (Major) Gaunt, both of whom were natives of Kentucky, the former born in Hopkinsville. John D. Gaunt removed to Illinois in early life and subsequently came to Decatur county, Iowa, here continuing to make his home until he passed away in 1891. During his active business career he followed farming and merchandising, conducting a mercantile establishment in Illinois for several years before coming to this state. In religious faith both he and his wife were Presbyterians. To them were born six children, three of whom died in early life, while those who grew to maturity are as follows: Mary F., who is the wife of John W. Russell; John B.; and E. W., of this review.

The last named acquired a public-school education in his youth and also spent one year as a student in Westminster College. He was reared on the home farm and remained in his native state until 1873, when he came to Decatur county, Iowa, where he has resided continuously since. As above stated, general agricultural pursuits have claimed his time and energies throughout his entire business



career and he is now widely recognized as one of the enterprising and prosperous farmers of Garden Grove township.

In 1892 Mr. Gaunt was united in marriage to Miss Grace McNeil, her father being S. P. McNeil, a highly respected pioneer of Decatur county. He is an agriculturist by occupation and has reared a family of nine children. To Mr. and Mrs. Gaunt have been born three children, namely: Joseph, Arnold and John.

Mr. Gaunt gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and since 1912 has served as president of the school board of Garden Grove township, being a stanch champion of the cause of education and lending his support to every movement and measure instituted to promote the general welfare. Wherever known he is highly esteemed and respected by reason of his genuine personal worth and excellent qualities of character.

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#### HON. EZEKIEL J. SANKEY.

Hon. Ezekiel J. Sankey, of Leon, has taken a very important part in local public affairs and for three terms represented his district in the lower house of the state legislature. He was for many years a farmer and stock-raiser in Decatur county but is now engaged in the real-estate and farm-loan business. His birth occurred on the 2d of August, 1843, at Potters Mills, Center county, Pennsylvania, and he is a son of Ezekiel and Elizabeth (Brown) Sankey. The Brown family is of English descent and was early established in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, where representatives of the name gained prominence as cloth manufacturers. The paternal grandfather, Ezekiel Sankey, who with two brothers emigrated to America from Scotland before the Revolution and located in Pennsylvania, enlisted in the Pennsylvania line for service in the war for independence and participated in the battle of Long Island, where he was wounded and captured by the British. He was held on the British prison ship in Wallabout bay, Brooklyn, New York, and suffered the cruelties then inflicted on prisoners by the enemy. At length he was exchanged and as soon as he had sufficiently recovered from the effects of his wounds he reentered the service and was at the front until the close of the war, being with the colors in all for five years and nine months. After the close of hostilities he was married and settled in York county, Pennsylvania. He was the father of three children, Sarah, Thomas and Ezekiel.

Ezekiel Sankey, the father of our subject, was born in York county, Pennsylvania, and is a second cousin of the late Ira D. Sankey, the noted evangelist, who worked for many years with Dwight L. Moody. Ezekiel Sankey was a minister of the gospel and a co-laborer of John Winebrenner, one of the founders of the church of that name. Mr. Sankey preached in Pennsylvania but in 1849 came west to Burlington, Iowa, intending to locate upon a farm and devote his time to agricultural pursuits. On the 26th of April of that year he arrived in Burlington with his family and ten hours later his son Thomas died of cholera, while two hours after the demise of the son the father died of the same dread disease, which was then epidemic. The mother of our subject was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and was married in 1839. There were but two children in the family: Ezekiel J., of this review; and Thomas D., who was born on the 4th of July, 1845. Following the sudden demise of the latter and of the father Mrs. Sankey and our subject were left alone among strangers two thousand miles from home and with but limited means. The mother would have returned to Pennsylvania but was forbidden to do so by the health authorities. In the fall of 1849 some Pennsylvanians of her acquaintance came west and she joined them, settling in Concord township, Louisa county, Iowa. Subsequently she married Samuel Fittro, a native of Pennsylvania, and they resided twelve miles southwest of Muscatine until the demise of Mr. Fittro in 1854. In 1856 she removed to Decatur county, where she resided until 1901, dying at the age of eighty years, in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which she belonged. All of the children of the second marriage are deceased and our subject has practically no relatives living save his immediate family.

Ezekiel J. Sankey attended a subscription school from 1850 to 1851 and later the public schools. In 1856 he removed with his mother to this county, locating four miles north and a half mile east of Leon, where he resided until August 15, 1861, when he enlisted in Company L, Third Iowa Volunteer Cavalry. In January, 1864, he reenlisted for three years as a veteran, and on the 11th of June of that year was wounded at the battle of Guntown. He was sent back to Memphis and then returned home on furlough but as soon as possible rejoined the army although the wound in his leg was not yet healed. He was honorably discharged on the 26th of February, 1865, on account of wounds, after serving for almost four years. He was with the Army of the Tennessee and participated in the campaigns in Tennessee and Mississippi. His regiment was a part of Wilson's Cavalry Corps, which was under the command of General Wilson.

Twenty years after the close of the war it was necessary to have his left leg amputated about eight inches from the thigh joint as a result of the wound received at Guntown.

Upon returning home from the front Mr. Sankey purchased one hundred and eighty-five acres of land in Franklin township, Decatur county, and turned his attention to the operation of his farm, while his mother kept house for him until his marriage. In 1867 he was elected sheriff of Decatur county and two years later was reelected to that office, having proved able and fearless in the discharge of his duties. At the expiration of his second term he purchased a farm on West Elk creek, in Grand River township, and operated it as a stock farm until January 1, 1878. He then removed to Leon, as he had been elected county treasurer. He has since resided in Leon and during the intervening thirty-seven years has contributed much to the development of the city. From 1885 until 1889, or for four terms, he was clerk of the district and circuit courts and since leaving that office has devoted the greater part of his time to the real-estate and farm-loan business, in which he has met with gratifying success. In 1900, however, he was the democratic candidate for clerk of the supreme court and received about one hundred and eighty-nine thousand votes as against one hundred and ninety-one thousand votes cast for the republican candidate. In 1903 he was chosen to represent his district in the house of the state legislature and served throughout the thirtieth and thirty-first general assemblies. In 1908 he was again elected as state representative, defeating his republican opponent by a majority of two hundred and four although the district normally returns a three hundred and fifty republican majority. No better proof of the confidence in which he is held by his fellow citizens could be found than in his repeated election to offices of trust and responsibility and he has at all times proved worthy of the honor.

Mr. Sankey was married in Center township on the 6th of May, 1866, to Miss Mary M. Gillham, who passed away in 1907, when fifty-nine years of age, leaving eight children, namely: Eugenia, the wife of Fred Teale, cashier of the Farmers & Traders' Bank of Leon; Moreau, of Des Moines, who is married and has three sons; Kate, the wife of T. J. Smith, of this county; Lois, who married James A. Lea, of Pocatello, Idaho; Newton, who is engaged in mining in southwestern Colorado; Cleora, a trained nurse now living in San Francisco; Warren, who is a traveling salesman with headquarters at Indianapolis and who is married; Carlisle, a resident of Iowa, who is married. Thomas and Bessie died at the ages of fifteen and six years respectively.

Mr. Sankey is one of the leaders in democratic circles in this part of the state and has done much to secure the success of the party at the polls. He at one time belonged to the Masonic order but is not now affiliated with that organization and has also allowed his membership in the Grand Army of the Republic to lapse although he helped to organize the local post. He is in sympathy with the beliefs of the Protestant churches and his life has conformed to high moral principles, but he is not a member of any church. He gives the credit for whatever success in life he has achieved to his mother, whose energy, ability and unswerving integrity have been an inspiration to him to perform every duty to the best of his ability. When the railroads were first being built in this part of the state, in 1872, he did much to secure rail connection with the outside world for Decatur county and throughout the more than half century that he has resided in this county he has at all times sought to further its advancement. There are few if any better known men in the county and none are held in greater respect and esteem than he.

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### J. F. McMORRIS.

J. F. McMorris, a successful farmer and stock-raiser residing on section 9, Eden township, was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, on the 8th of February, 1853, a son of James and Jane (Gibson) McMorris. The father was born in Virginia of Irish ancestry but in 1828 removed to Ohio and there engaged in farming until his demise, which occurred before the birth of our subject. In 1880 J. F. McMorris came with his mother to Decatur county, Iowa, and settled upon the farm on section 9, Eden township, where he still resides. His mother purchased eighty acres of land and continued to make her home there until her demise in January, 1899.

J. F. McMorris taught school for seven years in Ohio and after coming to Iowa taught one term at Eden Center in this county. Subsequently he purchased an additional forty acres of land and gave his attention to the cultivation of his farm of one hundred and twenty acres. He still owns the place but leaves the greater part of the work of its operation to his son. At one time he raised thoroughbred Shropshire sheep and Hereford cattle, but subsequently gave up breeding pure blooded stock and now raises a good grade of cattle and hogs, selling to the local shippers.



In 1889 Mr. McMorris was married to Miss Sutari Creveling, who was born in Fayette township. An account of the lives of her parents, Clemuel and Eliza Creveling, who were pioneer settlers of this county, appears elsewhere in this work. Mrs. McMorris died upon the homestead on the 24th of May, 1909, and her demise was the occasion of much sincere grief. She was the mother of five children, namely: Arthur, who is at home and has charge of the work of the farm; Jay, who owns and operates two claims in Montana comprising three hundred and twenty acres; Madge, who graduated from the Leon high school with the class of 1914 and who is at home; Joseph, who is attending high school; and May Ellen, who is attending the district school.

Mr. McMorris is an old line republican and, although he has always worked loyally for the success of his party, he has never been an office seeker. However, he was school director for several years and for eight years was treasurer of the Eden township school board. For thirty-five years he has been a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Leon, of which his wife was also a member. During his active connection with agricultural interests he was known as an energetic, alert and progressive farmer and gained a competence which insures him comfort for the remainder of his days. In all of his dealings he has been upright and honorable and he holds the respect of all who know him.

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### GEORGE SMITH.

George Smith is one of the prosperous agriculturists of Decatur county, owning three hundred and twenty acres in his home place on section 36, Long Creek township, and eighty acres in Franklin township. He was born near Burlington in Des Moines county on the 29th of December, 1839, a son of Peter and Martha (Ellison) Smith. His parents, who were natives of England, emigrated to America in 1835 and, making their way westward, settled near Burlington, Iowa, the father entering land three miles south of that city. Although he followed the miller's trade while living in England, he gave his attention to agricultural pursuits after coming to this country. He became the owner of four hundred acres of fine land, which he operated until his demise, which occurred in 1870 when he was seventy-five years of age. His widow survived until 1881, passing away when eighty-one years old. To them were born thirteen chil-



dren, as follows: Ann; William; Edward; Samuel; Jane; John; Ellison; George; Sarah; James; Alfred, who died while crossing the ocean; and two who died in infancy.

George Smith was reared in Des Moines county and after completing the public school course entered Denmark Academy at Denmark, where he supplemented the education which he had previously acquired. He remained with his parents until he was of age and then rented land from his father, which he operated until 1871. In that year he came to Decatur county and purchased eighty acres of land in Long Creek township, to the improvement and cultivation of which he devoted his energies until 1875. He then bought an additional eighty acres, removing to his new holdings, where he resided until 1899. In that year he purchased an adjoining one hundred and sixty acres and took up his residence on that place. He has brought his home farm, which comprises three hundred and twenty acres, to a high state of cultivation and has also made many improvements upon an eighty acre tract in Franklin township which he owns. There are two sets of buildings upon his land and everything is kept in excellent condition, while he has always used improved machinery and progressive methods in the work of the farm. His labors have yielded him a good income and he has accumulated a competence.

On the 3d of May, 1865, occurred the marriage of Mr. Smith and Miss Margaret Jane Sharp, who was born on the 15th of December, 1843, in Mount Sterling, Brown county, Illinois. Her parents, John and Sarah (Hemphill) Sharp, were both natives of Pennsylvania and were born of Irish and of Scotch ancestors respectively. They became early residents of Illinois but after remaining there a few years removed to Des Moines county, Iowa, where the father entered land, to the operation of which he devoted the remainder of his active life. He died in January, 1881, when seventy-three years of age, and the mother died in July, 1913, when she had reached the remarkable age of one hundred and one years and four months. To Mr. and Mrs. Smith have been born nine children, five of whom survive, namely: Martha E., born February 6, 1868, who is now the wife of C. A. Imhoff, a farmer of this county; Alfred G., born April 22, 1870, who is farming land belonging to his father; Sarah Alice, whose birth occurred September 30, 1872, who gave her hand in marriage to Arthur Richey, an agriculturist of this county; Carrie A., born December 12, 1880, who married George Redmond, a farmer of Long Creek township; and Horace Guy, born February 27, 1884, who is carrying on agricultural operations in

Long Creek township and who married Maud Severn. Those who are deceased are: Frank O., born February 14, 1866, who died in November, 1881; Charley, born July 3, 1875, and who passed away March 15, 1906; Harry S., whose birth occurred on April 27, 1878, and who died in January, 1881; and Maggie, born September, 1887, who passed away the following month.

Mr. Smith is a stalwart democrat but has never taken an active part in political affairs. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. On the 3d of May, 1915, he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, on which occasion all of their children and grandchildren and other relatives were present, and the occasion was a thoroughly enjoyable one. The house was beautifully decorated and a fine dinner was served the guests. Mr. and Mrs. Smith received many presents and all rejoiced with them in the many years of happy married life which it has been their privilege to enjoy. During the afternoon friends and neighbors called to extend their congratulations and good wishes.

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### JOSEPH BAILEY.

Joseph Bailey, who is successfully carrying on general farming and stock-raising in High Point township, was born in Cambridgeshire, England, May 7, 1841, a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Saunders) Bailey. They were the parents of nine children, six sons and three daughters, of whom five are still living.

When eighteen years of age Joseph Bailey emigrated to the United States in company with a brother, who had previously resided in this country. Our subject settled in Beaver county, Illinois, where he was employed at farm work for fifteen years, after which he removed to Iowa, buying a farm in Lucas county. He lived there for seven years and then removed to Wayne county, where he followed agricultural pursuits for a like period of time. He next removed to this county, buying a farm on which he resided for twelve years and which he has since given to his son Joseph R. He still owns an excellent tract of land on section 1, High Point township, and for seven years has made his home there. He concentrates his attention largely on the raising of cattle and horses for the market and his business yields him a good profit annually.

On the 24th of June, 1870, Mr. Bailey was married to Miss Virginia Arnold, a daughter of Thomas and Hannah (Ross) Arnold,

of Uniontown, Ohio, both of whom are deceased. Mrs. Bailey has two brothers and one sister living. To Mr. and Mrs. Bailey have been born seven children, namely: Margaretta, who died when nine years of age; Della, the wife of Robert Sayres, of Des Moines; Grace, who married William Cartwright, a farmer of this county, by whom she has three children; Herbert, who died when twenty-two years old; George, who is farming with his father; Joseph R., an agriculturist of this county; and Gladys, who lives at home.

Mr. Bailey attends the Methodist Episcopal church and can be counted upon to further all movements seeking the moral advancement of his community. His political belief is that of the democratic party. He has gained a gratifying measure of material prosperity and has also won the unstinted respect of his fellowmen.

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### FRED E. TEALE.

Fred E. Teale, who is the efficient and popular cashier of the Farmers & Traders State Bank at Leon, has occupied that position since the establishment of the bank in 1894. He was born near Lamoni on the 22d of October, 1869, a son of Thomas and Lucinda (Graham) Teale, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. He attended school at Des Moines, Leon, Lamoni, Davis City and Decatur City and after leaving high school completed his education by taking a commercial course at the Western Normal College at Shenandoah. About 1885, when still in his teens, he became connected with merchandising at Lamoni and was later connected with mercantile establishments in Leon and Weldon. For the past twenty years, however, he has given his attention to banking. Before he became connected with the Farmers & Traders State Bank at Leon he was in a bank at Lamoni which his father and his brothers organized in 1892 and which they sold in 1894. In that year the father organized the Farmers & Traders State Bank, of which he is president and our subject cashier. The latter is also financially interested in the Leon Savings Bank at Leon, the Iowa State Bank at Mount Ayr and the Farmers State Bank of Lamoni, of which he is president. He understands banking thoroughly in principle and detail and has proved an excellent cashier, at once safeguarding the interests of depositors and stockholders and promoting the legitimate expansion of business in his community. He has invested heavily in farming land and is interested in the Continental Hotel at Centerville.

Mr. Teale was married to Miss Eugenia Sankey, a daughter of E. J. Sankey, who is mentioned more at length on another page of this work. Mrs. Teale was reared in this county and is a graduate of the Leon high school. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is in sympathy with the varied work of that organization. By her marriage she has become the mother of two children: Freda Marie, who was born in Lamoni and who is now the wife of C. E. Steuber, assistant cashier of the Farmers & Traders State Bank; and Robert M., a native of Leon, who is attending the Liberal Arts College of the State University of Iowa.

Mr. Teale has erected a fine residence in Leon and has thoroughly identified his interests with those of the city, doing all in his power to promote not only its advancement along lines of business development but also its moral and civic progress. He is highly esteemed and sincerely respected and has many warm friends.

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### BURGESS WILSON GARRETT.

Burgess Wilson Garrett, clerk of the supreme court of Iowa, has won much commendation by the able fashion in which he is discharging the duties of his important office. He was born on a farm in Van Buren county, Iowa, on the 24th of February, 1872, and is descended in the paternal line from Scotch-Irish ancestors, while in the maternal line he is of German lineage. His father, William Carlisle Garrett, was born on the 1st of July, 1823, in Highland county, Ohio, a son of Robert Wilson Garrett, whose parents were William and Margaret Garrett, both born in 1770, the former on the 23d of April and the latter on the 23d of March. They were married on the 17th of April, 1794, and on emigrating to the United States settled in South Carolina. The birth of their son, Robert Wilson Garrett, occurred on the 17th of December, 1795, in that state and he remained there until he was a young man, when he removed to Highland county, Ohio. In 1849 he and his family settled in Van Buren county, Iowa, and six years later he died of the cholera. He was a farmer by occupation and was successful in his work. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Sarah Isabel Patterson, died about 1875 in Troy, Davis county, this state, not far from the Garrett homestead in Van Buren county.

William Carlisle Garrett was a prosperous and well-to-do farmer and was also prominent in political affairs. He represented his dis-



BURGESS W. GARRETT





trict in the tenth general assembly and proved an able and upright lawmaker. He was a whig and on the dissolution of that party became a republican, being one of the organizers of the new party in his county. He served as justice of the peace and as a member of the town council and was a man of influence in his community, as he was unusually widely read and as his mind was naturally keen and logical. He passed away in Decatur, Iowa, on the 25th of March, 1904, when almost eighty years of age. In religious faith he was a Presbyterian. In Highland county, Ohio, Mr. Garrett married Miss Libbie Simpson, who died not many years after the removal of the family to Iowa. To them were born five children: Sarah Isabel, who was born in Ohio, became the wife of Henry Peacock, a resident of Davis county, Iowa, and she died in 1876, leaving a son, Mervin, who is now living in Texas. John A., likewise a native of the Buckeye state, was born in the later '40s and is now living at Canyon City, Colorado. For a number of years he taught school and farmed in Pottawattamie county, this state. Adolphus H., born in Van Buren county, Iowa, resides at Bush, Colorado. He received an excellent education, attending Troy Academy, and for some time taught in Pottawattamie county, Iowa, where his marriage occurred. Robert Austin, also a native of Van Buren county, Iowa, has given considerable attention to farming but for the last decade has conducted a livery business in Essex, Page county, this state. Alvah M. was born in Van Buren county, and is now farming in the vicinity of Chadron, Nebraska. In August, 1869, the father married Miss Rachel Yost, and they became the parents of four children: Clyde M., who was born September 5, 1870, is now residing in Spokane, Washington, and is engaged in the real-estate business. Burgess W. is next in order of birth. Sarah Adella, who was born on the 7th of January, 1874, is the wife of J. L. Martin and they reside in Graham, Idaho. Eva A., born September 22, 1876, married Robert L. Campbell, who is farming near Malvern, Mills county, Iowa. The mother of our subject was born in Belmont county, Ohio, on the 20th of September, 1829, a daughter of Jacob Yost. Both her father and mother were natives of Virginia but her ancestors came from Germany. The family has been prominent in Virginia and Ohio and the name is a highly honored one. She taught school for a number of years previous to her marriage and removed from Ohio to Pulaski, Davis county, Iowa, although her marriage was celebrated in Van Buren county. She passed away on the 15th of March, 1898, in the faith of the Presbyterian church, to which she belonged.

When but a child Burgess W. Garrett accompanied his parents on their removal to Davis county, Iowa, and in 1882 the family home was established in Decatur county, the father having purchased a farm three miles east of Leon. Our subject was educated in the public schools, Simpson College and St. Joseph's University, from which institution he was graduated in due time. He earned the money for his school expenses by working upon a farm and later taught school. For two years he was principal of the Decatur high school and maintained the high reputation of that institution. He then entered public life as deputy treasurer of Decatur county and in 1898 became his party's nominee for clerk of the district court, but although he led his ticket he was defeated at the election. For one year he was in the office of Secretary of State Martin as corporation clerk and on the inauguration of Governor Cummins he became pardon secretary, serving in that capacity until July 1, 1907. During that time he organized the department along lines of advanced thought in criminology and it was his work that made possible the establishment of the indeterminate system. From the 1st of July, 1907, until the 1st of March, 1910, he was secretary of the board of parole and in that capacity prepared the rules and blanks which are still used in the administration of the law. He is a recognized authority on criminology in Iowa and is often called upon to address church societies, conventions, etc., on that subject. In 1910 he became the republican candidate for clerk of the supreme court and accordingly resigned his position as secretary of the board of parole on the 1st of March of that year in order to prosecute his campaign. He was successful in the election and his work during his four years' term was so satisfactory that in 1914 he was reelected for another four years, the people thus expressing their confidence in his capability and integrity.

On the 15th of April, 1892, in Decatur county, Mr. Garrett was married to Miss Rachel Woodmansee, a daughter of John Woodmansee, of Leon. His father preempted the second claim taken up in Decatur township and built one of the first mills in the county on Grand river. Mrs. Garrett was educated in the public schools and taught for about two years in Decatur county. By her marriage she has two children. Neill, born in Leon on the 26th of June, 1894, is a junior in the law school of Drake University. Julian Cummins, born in Des Moines on the 1st of September, 1903, is attending the public schools of that city. He possesses musical ability of an unusually high order. Mrs. Garrett and the elder son are members of the Christian church.

Mr. Garrett is a stalwart republican in politics and has served as chairman of the county committee and has been a member of the senatorial and congressional committees, his advice and work being important factors in securing the success of his party. He also belongs to the Christian church and since January, 1906, has been an elder in the Capitol Hill church of that denomination at Des Moines and has also been president of the board of trustees with the exception of one year. He is one of the leaders in Sunday-school work, teaching the Bible class of one hundred and twenty-five members and also instructing the seventeen teachers in the school at the teachers' meeting each Wednesday night. The Sunday school numbers over five hundred students and the church membership is fifteen hundred. Mr. Garrett is also president of the Inter-Church Council of Des Moines, embracing eighty of the local churches which promoted the Sunday campaign. Since 1910 he has been president of the Iowa Christian Missionary Society and has held the office much longer than any other incumbent therein. He is likewise a member of the American Christian Missionary Society and takes a great interest in the missionary work of his church, believing that the denomination that is not active in missionary work of some sort will soon lose strength and power. He is president of the City Mission Council of Des Moines and a member of the Iowa Branch of Federated Churches of Christ of America, being one of the three representatives from the state of Iowa. In 1911 and 1912 he was chairman of the auxiliary committee which conducted a campaign known as a "religious appeal to men" and which was very successful in promoting the growth of a religious spirit and interest among the men of the city. While living in Leon he was superintendent of the Sunday school of the Christian church there and religious work has always played a large part in his life.

Mr. Garrett is a man of remarkable energy and efficiency and in addition to his official duties and his great activity in church work he cooperates with movements seeking the business and civic expansion of Des Moines and is a valued member of the Commercial Club of that city. His public spirit prompts him if need be to sacrifice personal gain to the general good and his influence is always on the side of justice and right. Fraternally he is a member of Leon Lodge, No. 84, I. O. O. F., and has filled all of the chairs in that organization. Both he and his wife belong to Equal Rights Lodge, No. 319, of the Rebekahs. He is also identified with Hanley Lodge, No. 1701, M. B. A., of Des Moines. He understands thoroughly the work that devolves upon him in his capacity as clerk of the supreme court and

is systematic and accurate in the performance of his duties, proving an excellent official. Those who are associated with him have found him not only thoroughly competent but also accommodating and courteous, and the state is to be congratulated upon choosing Mr. Garrett as the clerk of its supreme court.

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### THEOPHILUS BRENIZER, M. D.

For forty-nine years Dr. Theophilus Brenizer, of Fayette township, has resided on or near his present farm, and during that time has gained a lucrative practice as a physician and surgeon. His birth occurred in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, March 14, 1846, and he is a son of David and Mary (Trimble) Brenizer, who passed their entire lives in the Keystone state. The father was a carpenter by trade, but resided upon a farm which he owned. To their union were born four sons and two daughters, those besides our subject being: Dr. George W., who passed away at the age of seventy-five years; O. C. and W. S., who are residing at Lamoni and own land in this county; Mrs. Peter Hempt, of Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Emily Shaull, who died in Pennsylvania in young womanhood.

Dr. Brenizer remained under the parental roof until the Civil war and then, when a youth of sixteen, entered the quartermaster's department of the army and was in the employ of the government for about three years, being stationed both in the east and west. When twenty years old he removed to Harrison county, Missouri, and there studied medicine under the instruction of his brother, Dr. George Brenizer. In 1871 he purchased his present home farm in Fayette township, which was then a hazel-brush thicket. He has made many improvements upon the place and, although he has several times suffered loss from fire, notably in 1886, when his fine large barn and contents burned, he has always rebuilt as soon as possible and has never become disheartened. He now owns three hundred and twenty acres of excellent land, partly on section 25, Fayette township, and partly across the state line in Harrison county, Missouri. He at one time owned four hundred and forty acres but has disposed of one hundred and twenty acres. About 1907, he erected a fine residence and he is numbered among the substantial men of Decatur county. For forty-nine years he has practiced medicine here and has become one of the best known homeopathic physicians in this part of the



state, gaining the confidence of both the general public and his professional brethren.

Dr. Brenizer was married in the spring of 1870 to Miss Mary Hiner, who was born in West Virginia, August 26, 1851, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Hiner, who settled at Fort Madison, Iowa, in the latter '50s. After two years they removed to Decatur county and located on a farm near Decatur City. The mother passed away there but the father died in Decatur City on the 26th of August, 1899, when eighty-six years of age. To him and his wife were born four children, those besides Mrs. Brenizer being: Mrs. Zula Tillotson, of Osceola, Iowa; Mrs. Kate Strong, of Geary, Oklahoma; and James H., who died in California. Dr. and Mrs. Brenizer are the parents of six children. Lionel D., who is farming in Fayette township, married Ida Frisby, and they have two children, Ruth Neil and Richard Rex. Lora Bea married Walter L. Frisby, a merchant of Kellerton, Iowa, and to them have been born four children: Carla; Theodore Raye; Wayne Jack, deceased; and Frank. James Lloyd is farming in Harrison county, Missouri, and married Maud Dix, by whom he has two children, Velma and Frances. Harry H. and Vera T. are both at home. Mary R., the fourth in order of birth, died when seventeen months old.

Dr. Brenizer is a democrat and is staunch in his support of that party, but has never accepted public office. His wife leans toward the Methodist Episcopal church and takes considerable interest in its work. For almost a half century Dr. Brenizer has resided in this section and during that time has made many warm friends, as he has invariably given his influence to the side of right and progress.

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### JAMES WILBUR MATHER, D. D. S.

Dr. James Wilbur Mather, who for about forty years has been actively engaged in the practice of dentistry in Decatur county, is one of the esteemed residents of Lamoni. He was born in Chateaugay county, province of Quebec, Canada, a son of Ralph and Ann (Silvy) Mather, of English and Scotch descent respectively and both natives of Northumberland, England. They were married in that shire but emigrated to Canada while still in their early manhood and womanhood and the father farmed in the Dominion until he passed away. To their union were born twelve children, of whom but three survive. The record of those who grew to maturity is as follows. Ralph con-

ducted a grist and sawmill for many years and died in Ontario, Canada, when about seventy-seven years of age. He was the father of Dr. William J. Mather, a well known dentist of Lamoni, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Thomas, who was a farmer, is now deceased. William removed to New Hampshire and was engaged in the wood business there at the time of his demise. Margaret was twice married, her first husband being William Gibson and her second a Mr. Prine. She died at Davis City, Iowa, a number of years ago. Mary, who became the wife of Arthur McFadden, passed away in Ontario, Canada. Isabella married John Montgomery and died in the Dominion of Canada. Esther married John McDonald, who was engaged in mining in the United States, and both passed away in this country. Maria, who married a Mr. Davis, of Vermont, is now residing at Brattleboro, that state, but her husband has passed away. Kate is the wife of S. J. Linn, a millwright, and they reside at Foster, Nebraska. Eliza, who became the wife of D. H. Rogers, passed away in a sanitarium at Chicago. Ann, who married John Finleyson, died at Detroit, Michigan. James Wilbur, of this review, is the youngest of the family.

The last named came to the United States when seventeen years of age, first locating in New Hampshire, but not long afterward removed westward, beginning his dental study at Sandwich, Illinois, under Dr. Pomeroy, who was engaged in the practice of dentistry at Plano, that state. For the first twelve years after beginning the practice of his profession Dr. Mather remained in Kane county, Illinois, but at the end of that time removed to Decatur county, Iowa. He has taken two post-graduate courses in dentistry at Kansas City, one in the Kansas City College and the other in the Great Western Dental College and has continually kept up his study and reading along the lines of investigation that are closely connected with the science and practice of dentistry. For fifty years he has engaged in the practice of his profession and for about forty years of that time has been located in Decatur county, removing here in 1876. His work is thorough and gives satisfaction to his patients, many of whom have patronized him for years. He is still active in practice and holds the confidence of his colleagues as well as of the general public.

Dr. Mather has been twice married. He chose Miss Mary Doze as his second wife and their marriage was solemnized in Ringgold county, Iowa. The Doctor has supported the democratic party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and he is not indifferent to anything relating to the public welfare. Fraternally he belongs to the Knights of Pythias lodge and he contributes to the support

of the Latter Day Saints church, of which his wife is a member. During the many years that he has resided in Decatur county Dr. Mather has been held in high esteem by his fellow citizens, not only as an able representative of his profession, but also as a man of high standards of life.

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### GEORGE W. BLAIR.

George W. Blair, an extensive real-estate dealer in Lamoni, is also mayor of the town and is a prominent and highly esteemed resident thereof. He was born in Lee county, Illinois, on the 22d of September, 1856, a son of the late W. W. Blair, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

George W. Blair remained in Illinois until February, 1880, when he was married to Miss Jeannette Haymond, of Sandwich, Illinois, but following that event he removed to Lamoni, Iowa, arriving here in March. He resided upon a farm in Decatur county for about eight years and then took up his residence in Lamoni, where he was engaged in the mercantile business with his father, his brother William, and Thomas Bell, the name of the firm being Blair & Bell. Under Cleveland's administration Mr. Blair of this review was appointed postmaster and served in that office until February, 1900. Upon the close of his tenure of office he went to Kellerton, Iowa, and for eight years was cashier of the Ringgold Savings Bank, proving an able and progressive financier. He then returned to Lamoni and took charge of the real-estate department of the State Savings Bank and still holds that position. He understands local conditions thoroughly and keeps in touch with the property upon the market and he has negotiated many important realty transfers. Since the organization of the State Savings Bank he has served as a director and stockholder of the institution and has also been a member of the auditing committee for a number of years. In the spring of 1912 he was elected mayor of Lamoni and in 1914 was reelected to that position, his services having proved very satisfactory to his fellow townsmen. He has been identified with all forward movements in Lamoni since taking up his residence in the city and as mayor has been able to accomplish much for the public welfare.

To Mr. and Mrs. Blair have been born a son and two daughters, namely: Wallace H., who married Lulu Gillen and who is editor of the Lamoni Chronicle; Mrs. E. G. Younker, of Wash-

ington, D. C.; and Mrs. B. W. Hart, of Omaha, Nebraska. Mr. Hart is engaged in the insurance business, in which he is meeting with a gratifying measure of prosperity. To him and his wife has been born a son. Mr. Younker is president of the Sanitary Grocery Company, which operates forty-two grocery stores in the city of Washington and he is one of the leaders in the business circles of that city.

Mr. Blair has voted the democratic ticket since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and has taken an active part in local politics, having held a number of other offices in addition to the office of mayor. In 1892 he was the democratic candidate for sheriff and was defeated by but sixteen votes although the normal republican majority at that time was almost six hundred. Although his home township was republican by a large majority his personal popularity was such that he polled all but twenty-three votes in that township. Fraternally he is associated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and both he and his wife are members of the Rebekahs. His son is a Knight of Pythias. He is energetic and progressive and carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes, whether it be some plan for the extension of his business interests or some project for the betterment of his community.

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### JASPER W. SPARGUR.

Jasper W. Spargur, a prosperous and wideawake farmer of Hamilton township, this county, was born in Highland county, Ohio, November 25, 1863, a son of A. W. and Julia (Upp) Spargur. The father was born in that county, on the 26th of August, 1838, of the marriage of John and Nancy (Beavers) Spargur, both natives of the Buckeye state. John Spargur was a miller by trade and passed away in Ohio in 1883, when eighty-four years of age. His wife died in 1878, at the age of eighty years. A. W. Spargur was reared and educated in his native state and in his youth learned the wagon maker's and shoemaker's trades, which he followed for several years. He also gave some time to agricultural pursuits, working as a hired hand for about three months, after which he operated the homestead until the spring of 1870, when he removed to Montgomery, Iowa, and thence to Holt county, Missouri. Subsequently he went to Wayne county, Iowa, but after residing there for three years he came to Decatur county, purchasing land in Hamilton township, which he operated for twenty years. At the end of that time he sold out and



purchased the Graves farm in the same township. Four years later, however, he sold that place also and bought the Carter farm of eighty acres on section 10, Hamilton township, which he at once began improving and operating. He still owns the property but since 1907 has lived practically retired, leaving the work of the farm to our subject.

On the 18th of November, 1862, A. W. Spargur married Miss Julia Upp, a daughter of John and Nellie Upp, natives of Ohio, where the father followed agricultural pursuits. He died December 15, 1860, but was survived by his wife until April 15, 1899. To Mr. and Mrs. Spargur have been born eleven children, namely: Jasper W., of this review; Newton, deceased, who was born October 9, 1865; Calvin, born August 9, 1867, who is now living in Colorado; Joseph, who was born July 3, 1869, and died October 9, 1870; Minnie, who was born April 5, 1871, and died August 13, 1873; Emma, who was born August 20, 1873, and died April 2, 1882; Cora, who was born October 7, 1875, and died December 11, 1881; Charles, whose birth occurred October 19, 1877, and who is living in Colorado; Henry, born October 6, 1879, who is farming in this county; Lucy, born September 20, 1881, who married William Henderson, of Davis City, Iowa; and Mary, who was born July 23, 1885, and who married Floyd Kirk, of Colorado Springs.

Jasper W. Spargur was reared under the parental roof and acquired his education in the public schools. For many years he operated the homestead in partnership with his father but since 1907 has had the entire management of the farm. He is thoroughly familiar with practical methods of agriculture and at the same time is always willing to adopt new ideas that promise to increase the efficiency of the farmer. He is prompt and energetic in his work and the sale of the grain and stock which he raises yields him a good annual income.

Mr. Spargur was married on the 22d of February, 1894, to Miss Allie Acton, a daughter of William and Jane (Bledsoe) Acton, pioneers of this county, where the father farmed for many years. He is now living retired and resides in Davis City. To Mr. and Mrs. Spargur were born two children: May, who was born March 5, 1895, and is the wife of Frank Hollister, a farmer of this township; and Edith, whose natal day was September 9, 1896. The wife and mother died on the 26th of September, 1896, leaving many friends who sincerely mourned her loss.

Mr. Spargur is a socialist, believing that many of the evils of modern life are due to the existing social order and that the adoption of the socialistic régime will secure better living conditions for the



great majority of people. He takes a keen interest in local public affairs and has served as school director and as road superintendent of his township. The Spargur family has been connected with the agricultural development of Decatur county for many years and the name is held in high honor as its representatives have been industrious and efficient and at all times have conformed their lives to high standards of conduct.

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### THEODORE CREVELING.

Theodore Creveling, of Fayette township, owns and with the assistance of his sons operates seven hundred and four acres of fine land and in addition to following general farming and stock-raising has given considerable attention to fruit raising. His birth occurred in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, January 27, 1852, and he is a son of Clemuel and Eliza Creveling, of Scotch-Irish and Pennsylvania-Dutch descent respectively. The paternal grandfather, Alexander Creveling, served in the war of the Revolution, as did a brother. Two other brothers served in the British army, but after coming to America deserted, as they sympathized with the colonists. Clemuel Creveling was born in Pennsylvania, as was his wife, and he resided there until 1852, when he came west to Clinton county, Iowa, whence a year later he removed to Decatur county. The family joined him in April, 1854, and they took up their residence on a quarter section of land which he had entered from the government. He also purchased a number of other tracts, paying therefor a dollar and a quarter per acre, and became a well-to-do farmer. He passed away in this county when sixty years of age and his wife died here when seventy-one years old. His political belief was that of the republican party and both were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They were the parents of nine children, of whom two died in infancy, and two died when six and eight years old respectively. There are four sons living: Alexander, of Fayette county; Theodore; C. E., of New Buda township; and A. M., of Ellston. A daughter, Mrs. Eliza Sutari McMorris, who resided near Leon died several years ago.

Theodore Creveling, who was but an infant when brought to Decatur county, has passed practically his entire life in this county, but spent some time in Rawlins county, Kansas. He was reared to the occupation of farming and has met with signal success as an agriculturist and stock-raiser. He owns seven hundred and four acres

of land in Fayette and Bloomington townships, his residence being on section 1, Fayette township. Three hundred and thirty-four acres of his holdings are devoted to pasture and three hundred and seventy acres are cultivated, from twenty-five to thirty acres being given up to fruit trees. He has been very successful as a fruit raiser and has one of the best orchards in Decatur county.

Mr. Creveling was married in this county in 1885 to Miss Della M. Gentry, a native of the county. Her father, Curn Gentry, who is a native of Kentucky, is still living at the venerable age of eighty years, but her mother, who bore the maiden name of Mary May, is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Creveling have become the parents of seven children, of whom one died in infancy, the others being: Vergie Sutari, the wife of H. C. Rauch; and O. C., D. T., A. M., Gladys and Florence, all at home.

The political allegiance of Mr. Creveling is given to the republican party, as he believes in the soundness of its principles. He at one time belonged to the Modern Woodmen of America and his wife and two daughters are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. All who come in contact with Mr. Creveling in business or social relations hold him in high esteem, as his life is guided by the highest moral principles. He is one of the large landowners of the county and he and his sons derive a handsome income from their farming and stock-raising activities.

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### A. C. NORTHRUP.

A. C. Northrup, who was a veteran of the Civil war and also a prosperous farmer and stock dealer, resided at Garden Grove for many years and was highly esteemed by all who knew him. He was born in Peterboro, Madison county, New York, and there received his education and grew to man's estate. Some time before the Civil war he located in Decatur county, Iowa, becoming a resident of Garden Grove. At that time the county was in the frontier stage of development, there was only one store at Garden Grove and many of the conveniences of life that are now considered necessities were altogether unknown. Mr. Northrup devoted his energies to farming and also bought and shipped stock extensively, being very successful in that occupation, as he was an excellent judge of stock and studied the market carefully. He accumulated a competence and was recognized as a man of good business judgment.

Mr. Northrup was married December 20, 1865, to Miss Melissa Brown, who was born in Huron county, Ohio, a daughter of Hugh and Harriett Brown. In 1854 she accompanied her parents to this county and has since resided here. She is one of the most esteemed of the older residents of Garden Grove and, although she has reached the age of seventy-four years, she is still active and vigorous. She is a sister of Captain J. D. Brown, of Leon, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. The Presbyterian church finds in her a loyal and consistent member and she has always manifested much interest in its work. To Mr. and Mrs. Northrup were born six children: Mrs. Emma Shaw, who resides near Denver, Colorado; Lenore, the wife of J. F. Gill, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Mrs. Libbie Shaw, who resides near Garden Grove; Albert E., a member of the firm of Northrup Brothers, merchants of Garden Grove; Harvey L., also a member of the firm of Northrup Brothers, who is serving on the board of supervisors; and Clyde, a farmer residing near Van Wert, this state.

Mr. Northrup was a republican and never faltered in his allegiance to that party. Fraternally he was identified with the Masonic lodge and the post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Garden Grove. He enlisted from Decatur county in Company L, Third Iowa Cavalry, and for four years fought in the Civil war in the defense of the Union. While with Captain J. D. Brown he was captured by the rebels and during the four years that he was at the front he experienced all of the hardships and privations of war. His demise, which occurred on the 22d of September, 1901, in Woodland township, was a loss to his many friends and to the community at large. He was seventy-one years of age but was still young in spirit and took much interest in all that happened.

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### WILLIAM H. CAMPBELL.

William H. Campbell, residing on section 3, Grand River township, owns an excellent farm of three hundred and forty-four acres. He was born in Decatur township, this county, on the 25th of March, 1861, and is a son of Marion Campbell, who was born in Jackson county, Indiana, of Scotch ancestry. His grandfather, Robert Campbell, was a native of Kentucky and an early settler of Indiana, where he continued to farm until 1856, when he removed with his family to Decatur county, Iowa. He entered land in the southeastern part

of Grand River township and there he passed the remainder of his days. Following his demise his widow, who bore the maiden name of Rachel Jolly, removed to Decatur, where her demise occurred. They were the parents of five children: Marion; Martha, who is living in Decatur; Rebecca, who became the wife of James Gray and died in California, as did her husband; Sarah, the wife of M. Corington, of Decatur; and John, deceased.

Marion Campbell attended the district schools in his boyhood and youth and also gained much knowledge concerning agricultural pursuits. Following his marriage he located upon an eighty acre tract of land entered by his wife previous to their marriage. The land was situated in Decatur township, and there they resided for many years, her demise occurring about 1867. He continued to operate the farm until 1890, when he purchased land in the vicinity of Decatur, where he spent his last days. He was a successful farmer and for many years operated a threshing machine. In politics he was a republican and his religious faith was that of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he served as trustee and steward. He was much interested in movements which sought to bring about a closer cooperation between the farmers of the country and was an active member of the Grange. His wife was in her maidenhood Miss Phoebe Hannah and her birth occurred in 1838. Both of her parents passed away in Indiana and she subsequently removed to Decatur county, Iowa, with her half-sister, Eliza Millsap. Not long after her arrival here she entered the aforementioned eighty acres of land in Decatur township. Her education was acquired in her native state. Her religious faith was that of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which she took a helpful interest. Her marriage occurred in 1859 and she became the mother of six children, as follows: Margaret, who was born in 1860, married Cicero Standish, who for a number of years followed agricultural pursuits in Grand River township. Subsequently they removed to Houston, Texas, where she passed away on the 2d of January, 1915, leaving three children, William, Pearl and Raymond. William H., the subject of this review, is the next in order of birth. Della, who was born in 1863, followed the profession of teaching but is now deceased. Robert, whose birth occurred in 1865, has also passed away. Etta and Ida Belle, twins, were born in 1867, and both died in infancy.

William H. Campbell passed the days of his boyhood and youth under the parental roof and divided his time between the acquirement of an education in the public schools and assisting his father with the farm work. When twenty-one years of age he bought his Grand-



father Campbell's farm in Grand River township, which comprised eighty acres, and continued to reside there until 1890, when he sold that place and removed to his present farm on section 3, Grand River township. He owns three hundred and forty-four acres of fine land, which he cultivates and from which he derives a gratifying annual income. He is justly ranked among the most up-to-date and most progressive farmers of his county and in gaining individual success he has also contributed to the agricultural development of his locality.

On the 18th of March, 1888, Mr. Campbell was married to Miss Minnie F. Fear, who was born in Dubuque county, Iowa, November 20, 1863, a daughter of Robert and Mary (Day) Fear. Her father was born in Somersetshire, England, February 8, 1837, the third in a family of seven children. He remained at home until 1856 and then, at the age of nineteen years, emigrated to the United States, making his way across the country to Dubuque county, Iowa, where he became identified with agricultural pursuits. Subsequently he was for eight years engaged in buying and shipping stock. In 1871 he came to Decatur county and purchased eighty acres of land in Grand River township. He prospered and as the years passed added to his holdings, accumulating three hundred acres of excellent land. He passed away on the 28th of February, 1891, but was survived by his widow until the 10th of February, 1913. She was in her maidenhood Miss Mary Day and was born March 17, 1857, in Somersetshire, England. Mrs. Campbell is one of their nine children and by her marriage has become the mother of three children, as follows: Edith Merle, who was born on the 16th of June, 1890, is a graduate of the Grand River high school. She was married on the 15th of August, 1910, to Ernest Street, who resides in Grand River township. Neal Dow, whose birth occurred on the 28th of February, 1895, graduated from the Grand River high school in 1911 and subsequently entered the State Agricultural College at Ames, taking a four years' course in animal husbandry, from which he was graduated in June, 1915. Floyd Vincent, who was born on the 10th of March, 1900, is a student in the Grand River high school.

Mr. Campbell is a republican and for four years has held the office of justice of the peace. For six years he was a member of the board of supervisors and for two years of that time served as chairman of that body. Fraternally he is connected with Banner Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Grand River, in which he has served as junior warden. Both he and his wife are members of the local Methodist Episcopal church, in which he has held the offices of trustee and steward. They have a wide acquaintance throughout the county and



the worth of their characters is attested by the fact that those who have known them most intimately are their staunchest friends. Mr. Campbell has devoted the greater part of his time to farming, in which he has met with a large measure of success, and he has also found opportunity to cooperate with many movements seeking the betterment of his community.

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### FRANK E. CHASTAIN.

Frank E. Chastain, who resides in Eden township, is devoting his attention to farming and stock-raising. He is a native of that township, his natal day being August 17, 1878, and is a son of John M. and Sarah A. (Albaugh) Chastain, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. He attended the Leon high school and subsequently was a student in the West Side high school of Des Moines, thus fitting himself to be an intelligent citizen and to perform well his work. After his education was completed the family returned to the home farm in Decatur county and he operated the place in partnership with his father until 1905, when the latter retired and took up his residence in Leon. Frank E. Chastain has since had the entire control of the homestead, which comprises two hundred acres of excellent land, and he has proved a very efficient farmer and stock-raiser. He breeds high grade stock and gives considerable attention to raising thoroughbred Barred Plymouth Rock chickens. He is practical but also progressive, and his energy and knowledge of business principles enable him to gain a good income from his land.

Mr. Chastain was married in August, 1902, to Miss Maude Bruner, who was educated at the East Des Moines high school and the Normal Institute and for one year prior to her marriage successfully engaged in teaching. She is a daughter of Joseph and Kate (McMurtry) Bruner, natives of Indiana and Illinois respectively. Her maternal great-grandfather was governor of Illinois at one time. Her father farmed for a few years in Decatur county, Iowa, after which he removed to Des Moines, where he served on the police force and in the fire department for many years, but is now in the employ of the street car company. His wife is also living. Mr. and Mrs. Chastain have two children: Paul J., who is eleven years of age; and Harold, a child of four years.

Mr. Chastain is a democrat and is the present clerk of Eden township, in which connection he is proving very efficient. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Christian church and his

daily life is proof of the sincerity of his belief. He has not only gained a considerable measure of financial prosperity but has also won the unqualified respect of all who have had dealings with him.

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## JOSEPH SMITH.

By Mary Audentia Anderson.

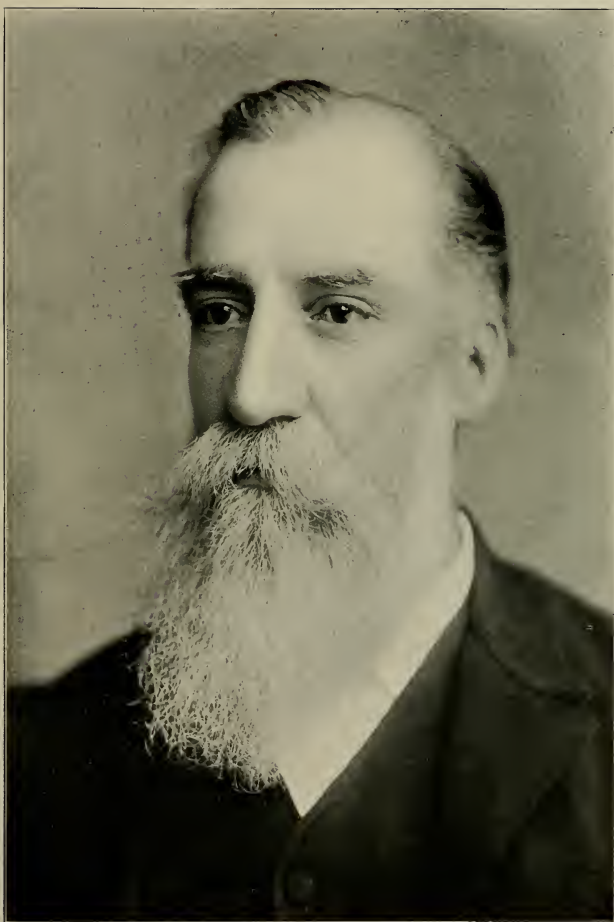
Joseph Smith, late president of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, was born at Kirtland, Ohio, November 6, 1832, and was the son of Joseph, Jr., and Emma Hale Smith, the latter being the daughter of Isaac Hale, a prominent and prosperous farmer of Pennsylvania.

Joseph Smith, Jr., the father of our subject, when a boy of fourteen, claimed that an angel appeared to him telling him not to join any of the churches of the day but to live faithfully, and he would be instrumental in carrying out God's plan to restore to earth the true gospel of Christ. Some years later, he claimed that the same angel delivered into his hands some gold plates, upon which were engraven strange characters. These, by the power of God, he claims to have translated, and the book was published at Palmyra, New York, in 1830 under the title of "Book of Mormon." It purports to be a record of the ancient inhabitants of America and God's dealings with them.

On April 6, 1830, he and five others, organized a church, according to instruction received by divine revelation. This claim, so unusual, and coming to a people who thought they fully possessed the Christian faith aroused much opposition.

In 1838, he moved his family to Missouri, settling at Far West, Caldwell county, but difficulties aggravated by misrepresentations of enemies, continued to harass the church and that fall he, with others was thrown into prison, being confined for seven long months in a noisome dungeon at Liberty, Clay county, Missouri.

While they were thus imprisoned, many of the families of the saints suffered unbelievable trials and deprivations. The governor of Missouri issued an order to banish them from the state or exterminate them, and, thus many thousands of peaceable and unoffending people were driven from their rightly-purchased homes, in the cold of a severe winter, and forced to make their way as best they could to Illinois, where more humane and sympathetic people succored them.



JOSEPH SMITH



Among the number thus forced to flee for their lives was Emma, the young wife of the leader of the church, who at that time was confined in the jail before mentioned. With her two youngest sons in her arms, and little Joseph and a foster-daughter clinging to her skirts, she crossed the frozen Mississippi on foot, and made her way to Quincy, Illinois, where she found rest, food and shelter in the home of a family by the name of Cleveland. In the spring she was joined by her husband, and a home was established later at Commerce, Hancock county, Illinois, which town afterward bore the name of Nauvoo and became the great center city of the Saints. They enjoyed a period of comparative prosperity, the population of the town swelling to fourteen thousand. A magnificent temple was started in 1841, built of the native stone of the country, but it was never completed.

Here, then, amidst such scenes, was spent the early life and boyhood of the late President Smith. He was baptized by his father when eight years old and later was blessed by him and designated as the future leader of the church. Perilous times ensued for the father, for he was persecuted by his enemies, and several times arrested but as often acquitted and released.

Finally a requisition came from the governor of Missouri demanding him as a fugitive from justice from that state and charging him with treason. Upon examination before a competent court the requisition was denied. In June, 1844, he was arrested on charge of riot and while under arrest, on the 27th day of June, 1844, a masked and painted mob of lawless men, shot him and his brother Hyrum, to death.

Following this tragedy the saints became scattered, many false leaders springing up, causing many schisms in their ranks, and two years later a great exodus occurred, thousands wending their way across the desert of the west to Salt Lake City, Utah, where Brigham Young built up his empiric stronghold.

Emma Smith, the widow of the murdered prophet, steadfastly refused to acknowledge the leadership of Brigham Young, and in spite of threats, promises, warnings and pressure of all kinds brought to bear upon her, she refused to go west but remained at Nauvoo, where she reared her four sons to manhood, instilling in them fearless honesty, steadfast loyalty to conviction, loving respect for their father's memory, and supreme confidence in and reverence for God.

Responding to a call which he believed to be divine, "Young Joseph" as he was affectionately called by those who knew him in those days, in 1860 attended a conference of the membership of the church, at Amboy, Illinois. There he was chosen president, being



ordained to that position on April 6. This organization had been effected in 1852 and had taken a firm and uncompromising stand against the evils in the Utah faction, among which were the doctrines of polygamy, blood-atonement, spiritual wifery, etc. This stand the Reorganized Church has never abandoned.

This was the work which Joseph Smith took up at the age of twenty-eight, a work to which he bent, throughout the long years of his life, his best and worthiest energies. Patiently the scattered saints built up by slow and careful steps, an organization whose pride it is to live in conformity with the rules of right conduct and right motives, believing as they do that "he who would keep the law of God has no need to break the laws of the land." From the small beginning made in 1852 this church with Joseph Smith as its president, and against fearful odds of popular misunderstanding and prejudice, succeeded in carrying out most triumphantly a high standard in doctrine and morals. How well they succeeded was partially evidenced by the fact that upon the announcement of Joseph Smith's death last winter, the press of the country almost universally united in expressions of respect and esteem. Where he was personally known, he was beloved; and where only his public work was known, that was spoken of in generous terms of approbation for its acknowledged consistency and earnestness.

He was very patriotic and highly prized his right of franchise, exercising that prerogative for the last time just a few days prior to his death. His political convictions caused his support to go to the republican party, and he voted for every republican candidate for president, his first vote being cast for John C. Fremont in 1856.

He studied law in his youth but never entered into its practice. He served two terms as justice of the peace in Nauvoo, and one term in Plano, Illinois, to which place he moved in 1865. He had editorial charge of the Saints' Herald, official organ of the church, from 1865 to the close of his life. He served at various times as member of school boards, having always a keen interest in affairs of education and progress.

In 1881 he moved to Lamoni, Iowa, to which place the Herald publishing plant and official headquarters of the church were at the same time transferred. He, with his family, consisting at that time of wife, four sons and four daughters, arrived on the evening of October 8, and took up their residence in a commodious frame dwelling which had been built the preceding summer for their reception. It was situated on a small farm of forty acres adjoining the town limits on the west, and from this home he went daily to the Herald

office, carrying on his work as editor and presiding officer of the church. He gave the name of "Liberty Hall" to his home, and his fine and never-failing hospitality,—to rich and poor alike,—his open door to the needy or the deserving, fully justified this title. Later, when he moved to Independence, Missouri, and the place was transformed into a residence for aged people of the church, the name was preserved and today it is known as "Liberty Home" and has sheltered many aged and deserving people.

In Lamoni, as in Plano and Nauvoo, Joseph Smith's influence for good citizenship was strongly felt. He was an active advocate of temperance, and many and powerful were the addresses he made in that cause from pulpit and lecture platform. He assisted in banishing the saloon from every town he lived in and promulgated the doctrine of sobriety and abstinence wherever and whenever opportunity offered. His church associates are stanch supporters of this principle also and can be counted upon to vote almost solidly for prohibition movements.

Three times has the Reorganized Church established in the courts of the land, its claim to be the only true and lawful successor to the original church as founded by Joseph Smith, Sr., in 1830.

The accepted books of the church strongly condemn the doctrine of polygamy and teach instead purity and virtue of life, integrity, godliness, and everything having a tendency to exalt and ennoble the human mind, and Joseph Smith counseled the members of the church to shun any and every man who taught any principles contrary to these virtues.

The enemies of Joseph Smith claimed that he was ignorant, shiftless and mischievous, and that he came of low and ignoble parentage. This has been successfully and undeniably refuted by those who have made a study of his ancestry. It is found that behind him a long line of industrious, gentle and patriotic forbears stand, and in them we may trace, to a considerable extent, many of the traits of character, which distinguished him,—as well as his son, the subject of our sketch. In both men there existed a strong love of country, and firm respect for its laws and government, as well as a deep hatred for all forms of oppression, tyranny or injustice. These characteristics may be traced to their ancestors who bore arms in defense of their country and fought for the establishment of their rights to freedom and liberty. Asael Smith, grandfather of Joseph the Prophet, was a captain of Minute Men, who marched at the call of April 19, 1775, and helped to fire the "shot that was heard around the world." Also he commanded a company at the fortification of Dorchester Heights,

and, in 1776 helped to drive the British from Boston. His father, Captain Samuel Smith, was prominent in the affairs, both civil and military, which marked the stirring days of the colonies' revolt against tyranny, being a member of the "Tea Committee," and the "Committee of Safety," and held at various times many positions of trust and service in his community. He was representative to several Provincial and Continental Congresses, where resolutions were passed, condemning the actions of their oppressors, declaring their constitutional rights, and pledging themselves and their fortunes to the defense of those rights. Energetically were those pledges redeemed; companies were raised, equipped and carefully drilled, and these farmer-soldiers later took active and effectual part in the valorous deeds which fill the history of those times and which resulted in the blessed heritage of freedom which we possess.

Lucy Mack Smith, the mother of the founder of the church, also came from a family active in military affairs, her father, Solomon Mack, serving in the French and Indian wars, and the Revolution. He fought in the battle at Lake George and later was with Major Putnam in his historical engagements with the Indians. In 1776 he enlisted in the continental army, serving his country until the close of the war. His son, Stephen, held the position of major in the War of 1812, also having seen service in the Revolutionary war, although he was but seventeen when he enlisted. Major Mack was in Detroit when Hull surrendered to the British, which so disgusted him, that he broke his sword across his knee and tossed it into the lake, saying that he would never submit to such a disgraceful compromise while the blood of an American flowed in his veins.

The ancestry of Joseph Smith includes many men and women who were sturdy pioneers in this country, coming here to escape oppression, or to find that breadth of liberty and expression which their natures demanded. Unflinchingly they faced the terrors and danger of this wild and unexplored country, and, gaining footholds, here and there, they helped to build prosperous New England towns. Their names Smith, French, Gould, Curtis, Towne, Bagley, Mack, Huntley, Colby, Gates, Spencer, Cone, etc., are found all through the records of those early days and to these pioneers doubtless their descendants owe many sound, noble and courageous characteristics. Enough has been written to disprove the slanderous statements made about the family of Joseph Smith. They were ever law-abiding and loyal patriots, despising treachery, oppression and injustice.

In the light history throws upon his ancestors, do we not find the source of his calm courage in the face of danger, his persistency in upholding what he believed to be true, and his fearlessness in pre-

senting those convictions? Even his martyrdom had its prototype in the death of a Protestant ancestor, John Loomis, who was burned at the stake by Catholics, under Queen Mary in 1556. Oppression in any form, was obnoxious to Joseph Smith, and the disturbances which followed the settlement of the church in Missouri had much of its origin in the strong anti-slavery sentiments they held. They believed that the Constitution of the United States made no distinction of color or race, when it declared that "all men are created free and equal." The late president of the church was most democratic and sympathetic in his attitude toward the black race.

Of the personal family ties of President Smith there is this to record. He married Miss Emma Griswold, at Nauvoo, October 22, 1856. She bore to him five children, two of whom Evelyn Rebecca and Joseph Arthur, died in infancy. His daughter Emma Josepha, born in Nauvoo in 1857, was married to Alexander McCallum in 1875. His second daughter, Carrie Lucinda, born at Nauvoo in 1861, married Francis M. Weld at Lamoni in 1887. Zaide Viola, born also in Nauvoo in 1863, was married to Richard S. Salyards in 1883. She died in 1891.

After the death of his wife, Emma, Mr. Smith married Miss Bertha Madison, at Sandwich, Illinois, in 1869. To this union were born nine children, two of whom, Kenneth and Blossom, died at birth, and two others, David Carlos and Bertha Azuba, at the ages respectively of fifteen and six years. Mary Audentia was born at Plano, Illinois, in 1872 and was married in 1891 to Benjamin M. Anderson. Frederick Madison was born at Plano in 1874, and in 1897 married Miss Ruth L. Cobb. He was named by his father as his successor in the presidency of the church. At the General Conference of 1915, Frederick M. was chosen president and so ordained at Independence, Missouri, his home, on May 5th following. Israel Alexander, born at Plano in 1876, married Miss Nina Grenawalt in 1908. Hale Washington, born at Plano in 1881, married Miss Rogene Munsell in 1905. Lucy Yeteve was born at Lamoni in 1884 and was married to Jesse M. Lysinger in 1906.

In 1896 Joseph Smith buried his wife Bertha and later married Miss Ada Rachel Clark at Toronto, Canada. Three sons came to bless this union, namely: Richard Clark in 1898; William Wallace in 1900; and Reginald Archer in 1903, all being born in Lamoni.

In 1903 President Smith went to England, his first trip to foreign lands, though he had preached in many states and territories in the United States as well as in many provinces of Canada. He visited Scotland and Wales also, returning late in the fall of the same year.



In August, 1906, he moved to Independence, Missouri. Later in the year he made a trip to Honolulu, in the performance of his ecclesiastical duties. His eyesight failed him, and he spent the last four years of his life in total darkness, so far as the physical was concerned. His mind however, retained to the last, its wonderful clarity and vigor, and his counsel was eagerly sought and wisely given.

All the sons and daughters of Joseph Smith, as well as the men and women who married into the family are members of the Reorganized Church.

When he was stricken with his last illness, his children gathered about him, Frederick coming from his studies at Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts, Hale from his mission field in Alabama, and others from Lamoni. For two weeks he lingered, in patience and sweet resignation awaiting the release of his weary spirit from its darkened tenement. Tenderly he counseled, and many were the scenes of the past which passed before his mind, and firmly he bore his dying testimony that Jesus was the Christ, and that he was not afraid to go to meet that Christ. Peacefully the end came at one o'clock in the afternoon of December 10, 1914.

From the many tributes to the life and character of Joseph Smith which found their way to the attention of the public at that time we select the following, an editorial in the Kansas City Journal for December 12, 1914:

In the ecclesiastical dogmas which made up the denominational belief of the late Joseph Smith the general public has no particular interest. But in the death of the late venerable head of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints the country loses an interesting and useful citizen. Joseph Smith was considerably more than a powerful churchman into whose keeping had been committed the destinies of one of the great denominations of the world. Those who ignorantly confounded the Reorganized Church with Mormonism, in the objectionable acceptance of that term, will not appreciate the theological distinctions between the two nor understand that nothing was more hateful to Joseph Smith than the doctrines of Brigham Young, with their polygamous teachings and all the other features which make Utah Mormonism obnoxious in the eyes of the average American.

But all who ever came in contact with Joseph Smith could readily appreciate the broad charity of his tenets, the untarnished private life he lived, the unswerving devotion to duty which he always displayed and the simple modesty of his relations toward his church and the world at large. To his church he was the prophet whom all its com-



municants revered, but he was also the unostentatious leader who constantly practiced the virtues which he enjoined upon his followers. To the world he was the blameless citizen who walked before all men as an example and whose interest in the movements that made for the welfare of the community always had his heartiest support.

Perhaps nothing could give a clearer insight into the character of Joseph Smith than the directions which he issued shortly before his death in respect to his funeral. Disliking nothing so much, next to sham, as ostentation, he directed that his funeral should be conducted with the utmost simplicity, without any of the elaborateness which his followers would otherwise have provided in order to testify to the honor in which they held him. He was the prophet, but first of all he was the Christian gentleman and the good citizen. As such he lived, as such he died, as such he will be remembered by all outside the household of his faith. His followers themselves can have no legacy of remembrance more honorable than this appraisalment of the people among whom he lived and labored so many years. Kindly, cheerful, loyal to his own creed, tolerant of those of others, standing for modesty, simplicity, good citizenship, embodying in his private and public life all the virtues which adorn a character worthy of emulation—such is the revelation which Joseph Smith leaves to the world, as the real interpretation of an ecclesiastical message translated into terms of human character.

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### PETER POLAND.

Peter Poland, who for forty-four years has followed agricultural pursuits in this county, is the owner of two hundred and forty acres of land in Morgan township. He was born in Dayton, Ohio, April 9, 1837, and is a son of Ezra and Eunice (Sears) Poland. The parents were natives respectively of Pennsylvania and of Ohio but about 1840 became residents of Illinois, the father entering land in Morgan county. He continued to operate his farm during the remainder of his life and passed away in 1884. His wife is also deceased.

Peter Poland was reared under the parental roof and received his education in the district schools of Illinois. When twenty-four years of age he enlisted in Company C, Sixth Illinois Volunteer Cavalry, and was with the colors for four years and two months, seeing much hard service in that time. After the close of the war he returned

home and worked for his father for three years. Subsequently he came to Decatur county, Iowa, and bought one hundred and twenty acres on section 3, Morgan township. He concentrated his energies upon the operation of his farm and as he was energetic and practical and managed his affairs well he was eventually able to buy one hundred and twenty acres additional, his present holdings comprising two hundred and forty acres on sections 3, 4, 9 and 10. He has operated his farm for more than forty-four years and has gained more than a competence. He gives much thought to the planning of his work and is always ready to adopt new methods if it can be shown that they are an improvement over those previously in use.

On the 2d of October, 1870, Mr. Poland was united in marriage to Miss Mary Robinson, who was born April 4, 1840, a daughter of John and Mary (Crockett) Robinson. Her parents were natives of Kentucky, but became pioneer settlers of Decatur county, Iowa, locating here about 1854 or 1855. The father entered land in Morgan and Woodland townships and devoted the remainder of his life to the operation of his farm. He passed away in 1882 and his wife died two years later. Mr. and Mrs. Poland have six children, Ella M., Maggie, Emma B., Hattie, Lawrence and John A.

Mr. Poland has supported the republican party at the polls since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln. For three years he served as trustee of his township, discharging his duties with ability and circumspection. His religious allegiance is given to the Methodist church, which profits both by his material support and his cooperation in its work. He is a valued citizen of his community and there are many who hold him in warm regard as a personal friend.

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### W. E. REED.

W. E. Reed, a highly esteemed farmer living retired in Pleasanton, was born in Carroll county, Ohio, February 15, 1842, a son of William and Susanna (Scott) Reed. The father, who was a native of Ireland, emigrated to America with his parents in 1818, the family residence being established in Ohio, where his father followed agricultural pursuits. William Reed removed to Madison county, Iowa, in 1855 and purchased land, to the operation of which he devoted the remainder of his life. He passed away in 1857. His wife, who was a native of Virginia, died in 1905.

W. E. Reed was reared and educated in Ohio and Madison county, Iowa, and remained with his mother until he was about eighteen years of age. He then began working as a farm hand and was so engaged until the outbreak of the Civil war, when he put aside all personal considerations and enlisted in Company I, Fourth Iowa Volunteer Cavalry, with which he served for three years and eight months. At the close of hostilities he returned to Madison county, Iowa, and rented land there until February, 1896. In that year he went to Mercer county, Missouri, and purchased land which he cultivated for six years. In 1902, feeling that he had acquired a competence, he retired from active life and removed to Pleasanton, where he has since resided, enjoying well earned leisure.

In 1881 Mr. Reed married Miss Rose Jolly, a daughter of Beden and Lucinda (Simpkins) Jolly, both natives of Iowa. The father farmed in Warren, Van Buren and Madison counties, Iowa, but for the past thirty years has operated a truck farm near St. Joseph, Missouri. Mr. and Mrs. Reed have become the parents of four children: Merton, who is farming in Hamilton township, Decatur county; Oscar, at home; Ivan, also a farmer of Hamilton township; and Donald, who died in 1892.

Mr. Reed is a republican and has given stanch support to the party which stood by the Union in the time of its peril. His religious belief is that of the Methodist Episcopal church and no movement characterized by high moral endeavor lacks his support and cooperation. He has many excellent qualities which have gained him the respect and esteem of those who know him.

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### WILLIAM HAMILTON YOUNG.

Among the prominent stock-raisers of Decatur county is William Hamilton Young, who owns and operates three hundred and eighty-five acres of excellent land in Richland township. He was born in that township on the 29th of September, 1854. His father, John D. Young, was a native of Indiana and came of German ancestry. He removed to Decatur county, Iowa, with his parents, John L. and Judy A. Young, and the grandfather of our subject entered from the government two hundred and forty acres of land on section 22, Richland township, and two hundred and sixty acres on section 33, which was totally unimproved when it came into his possession. The first thing that he did after entering it was to erect a log cabin, which remained the family residence for several years. As time passed he

brought his land under cultivation and in the course of years his place became highly developed and well improved.

John D. Young built a cabin on the farm on section 22 and at once began cultivating the land. He became a prosperous farmer and an influential citizen and passed the remainder of his life on his farm. He was a democrat in politics, as was his father before him, and his religious faith was that of the Baptist church. He died on the 12th of February, 1909, when in his seventy-ninth year. His wife, who bore the name of Catherine Warrick, was born in Tennessee, a daughter of Robert and Martha (Hatfield) Warrick. Her father, who was also a farmer by occupation, emigrated to Iowa in 1852 and located in Doyle township, Clarke county, becoming a very successful farmer and highly esteemed citizen of his community. He served in the Union army during the Civil war and while at the front contracted a disease which eventually caused his death. His wife has also passed away. Mrs. Young died in 1875 when thirty-six years of age. She was the mother of six children, namely: William H.; John L., who died about 1880, leaving a family; Robert and Martha J., both of whom died in infancy; Henry H., of Eaton, Colorado; and George W., a farmer of Morrill county, Nebraska.

William H. Young was reared upon the home farm in Richland township and as a boy and youth attended the district school, thus acquiring a good education. He continued to assist his father with the work of the fields and the care of the stock for several years after putting aside his textbooks. Eventually he purchased a portion of the home farm and at the demise of his father he inherited one hundred and eighty acres. He has also acquired additional land and now owns in all three hundred and eighty-five acres in Richland township. He has always given special attention to stock-raising and breeds shorthorn cattle, Percheron horses and Poland China hogs, the sale of which yields him a good income. He also follows general farming and in both branches of his business is meeting with gratifying success.

On the 31st of December, 1874, Mr. Young married Miss Neresta Edwards, who was born in Richland township, on the 29th of October, 1855, of the marriage of Anderson and Armina Edwards, residents of Long Creek township. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Young. Luella, born January 10, 1879, is now the wife of Fred B. Bramon, of Delphis, Ringgold county, by whom she has four children. Nora C., born February 18, 1882, married Lloyd Gilreath, by whom she has four children. Carrie A., born October 1, 1885, is now the wife of J. L. Mendenhall, a farmer of Franklin



township, by whom she has four children. Frederick M., born February 22, 1887, is operating the home place. He married Miss Ruth Ward, a daughter of Daniel and Loretta Ward, and two children have been born to this union. Martha J., whose birth occurred on the 27th of October, 1890, is now the wife of Herbert Johnson, a farmer of Richland township.

Mr. Young is a democrat and has held various township offices. His personal popularity in the county and the confidence which is placed in his integrity is attested by the fact that in 1900 he was elected county treasurer, although Decatur county is normally republican. He took his seat in January, 1901, and served for five years, holding over one year, due to a change in the election law. He proved a very efficient custodian of the funds and there was never the slightest doubt of his absolute honesty and trustworthiness. Fraternally he belongs to the Masons and Odd Fellows, and in his life exemplifies the spirit of brotherhood which characterizes these orders.

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### CARTER SCOTT.

Carter Scott, senior member of the firm of Carter Scott & Son, which owns and conducts an excellent hardware and grocery store in Davis City, was born in New Albany, Indiana, March 27, 1860, a son of Harbert and Nancy (McKinley) Scott. The father, who was of English descent, was born in Kentucky, a son of John Scott, who removed from the Blue Grass state to Indiana when his son Harbert was but a child. The town of Scottsville, Indiana, was named after John Scott, who was well known and highly esteemed in his community. Harbert Scott was by trade a blacksmith and tool maker and was an efficient workman. Our subject has in his store some tools made by his father over fifty years ago. In later life the father also engaged in farming and in all that he did met with gratifying success. His wife, who was born at New Providence, Indiana, of Scotch-Irish stock, was a distant relative of President McKinley. Our subject's parents were married at New Providence, Indiana, and both passed away upon a farm near Scottsville, that state, the demise of the father occurring in November, 1910, and that of the mother in December of the same year.

Carter Scott attended the district school located on land given by his father for school purposes, and also assisted with the work of the homestead, thus familiarizing himself with agricultural methods.



When twenty years of age he removed to Iowa, arriving in Davis City in March, 1880. For a year he worked at odd jobs but March 1, 1881, entered the general store of J. E. Teale as clerk. He held that position for nine years, or until the firm became Teale & Kramer. Subsequently he purchased a half interest in the business, the name being changed to Kramer & Scott. Two and a half years later Mr. Kramer sold his interest to H. L. McClaran and the business was conducted for two decades under the firm style of Scott & McClaran. At the end of that time our subject sold his interest to Mr. McClaran and purchased the hardware and grocery store of I. N. Jeffries. Mr. Scott conducted the business alone until January, 1912, when he took into partnership his son, C. Erald Scott, the firm name becoming Carter Scott & Son. They deal exclusively in hardware and groceries and have a large and representative trade. One of the leading factors in the success of their business has been their unswerving honesty and integrity and they have also taken much pains to satisfy the demands of their customers, buying their stock with especial reference to the needs of their community.

On the 29th of March, 1885, occurred the marriage of Mr. Scott and Miss Lulu Bass. She is a daughter of Seth M. and Sarah (Blowers) Bass, natives respectively of New York state and Vermont. The father emigrated to Michigan in early manhood and subsequently removed with his family to Lamoni, where both he and his wife passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Scott have two children. Veta L. was born November 30, 1887, and is now the wife of Julian E. Butterworth, who is the head of the department of secondary education in the State University at Laramie, Wyoming. They have a son, Julian Scott, who is five years of age. Carter Erald, born November 25, 1890, was graduated from the Davis City high school and following his graduation attended Graceland College at Lamoni. He is now the junior member of the firm of Carter Scott & Son.

Mr. Scott is a stalwart democrat and for several terms served on the city council. For eighteen years he was secretary of the school board of Davis City and has always manifested a keen interest in the cause of popular education. Fraternally he belongs to the Masonic blue lodge at Davis City and his son is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America of that place. Mrs. Scott and both the son and daughter belong to the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints of Davis City and take an active part in its work. Mr. Scott's success in life is due to his astuteness, sound business judgment and untiring energy, as he began his independent career without capital or the backing of influential friends. He has not only won

financial prosperity but has also gained an honored name, as all who have come in contact with him whether in business or social relations hold him in the highest esteem.

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### LOUIS N. STEPHENS.

Louis N. Stephens, a prosperous farmer and stock-raiser who owns and operates two hundred and eighty-seven acres on section 2, Bloomington township, was born upon that farm August 17, 1865, of the marriage of Hugh C. and Mary A. (Burrell) Stephens, both of whom are deceased. The father was born in Indiana and first married Miss Ferguson, who accompanied him to Decatur county, Iowa, where she passed away in early womanhood. She was the mother of two children, of whom one died in infancy, the other being the late T. T. Stephens, whose death occurred recently at Davis City. The father followed agricultural pursuits and entered from the government the farm which our subject now owns. He passed away in 1871 when only thirty-seven years of age. His second wife, who was in her maidenhood Miss Mary A. Burrell, was born in Indiana, but accompanied her parents to Decatur county, Iowa, when but eight years old. She died in the fall of 1912 at the age of seventy-nine years. She attended the Baptist church and took a commendable interest in its work. She was the mother of five children, as follows: James, a resident of Bloomington township; Burrell, who is living in Dent county, Missouri; Louis N.; Madison, also a resident of Dent county, Missouri; and Mrs. Ida Gravatt, of Bloomington township, this county.

Louis N. Stephens was reared upon the homestead and during his boyhood and youth attended the common schools in the pursuit of an education. Upon reaching man's estate he decided to follow the occupation to which he had been reared and he has met with gratifying success as a farmer and stock-raiser. He has continued to reside upon the homestead and now owns two hundred and eighty-seven acres of excellent land, from which he derives a good income annually.

In 1893 occurred the marriage of Mr. Stephens and Miss Sadie Bedell, who was born in Wapello county, Iowa, of the marriage of the late D. E. and Martha Bedell. Both parents were reared in Wapello county and continued to reside there until about 1879, when they removed with their family to this county. The father was a soldier in the Civil war and passed away about 1893 at an advanced

age, while his wife survived until 1909. To their union were born eight children: Mrs. Carrie Earl, of Ottumwa; John, who lives in Missouri; C. M., deceased; Susan, who resides with our subject and his wife; W. H., of Wapello county, Iowa; Sadie, now Mrs. Stephens; Jesse, of Missouri; and Belle, the wife of E. H. Whetstone, of Fort Madison, Iowa. Mrs. Stephens grew to womanhood in this county and here her marriage occurred. She has one son, Loren W., who celebrated his fifteenth birthday on the 28th of April, 1915.

Mr. Stephens is a democrat and loyally supports the candidates and measures of that party at the polls. His fraternal affiliation is with the subordinate lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Decatur City. Both he and his wife belong to the Elk Chapel Methodist Episcopal church and their influence is always on the side of right and progress. His has been a life of well directed industry and his prosperity is the merited reward of energy and good management.

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### J. P. HAAS.

J. P. Haas, manager of the Farmers Grain & Seed Company of Lamoni, was born on the 10th of January, 1868, in Henry county, Illinois, a son of Frank and Mary (Gunter) Haas, who emigrated to this country shortly after the close of the Civil war, coming here from the vicinity of Berlin, Germany. They took up their residence in Illinois and the father engaged in the coal business and also worked as a carpenter for some time. In February, 1880, he removed with his family to Greene county, Iowa, where he purchased a farm, to the operation of which he devoted his energies. He continued to reside there until his death, which occurred in 1905, when he had reached an advanced age. His widow is still living and resides at Cooper, Iowa. She is a devout member of the Catholic church, as was her husband, who took an active part in its work. They were the parents of five children, namely: Mrs. Maggie Myers, of Greene county, Iowa; J. P.; Frank, who is a barber in the capitol building at Des Moines; Mrs. Ida Pittman, who is residing at Cooper, Greene county; and Mrs. Minnie Powell, of Grand Island, Nebraska.

J. P. Haas was twelve years of age when the family removed to Greene county, Iowa, and he continued his education in the district schools there. He remained at home until 1893, in which year he removed to Decatur county, where he began farming on his own ac-

count. For many years he concentrated his attention upon the cultivation of land and still owns one hundred and twenty-five acres in the southwestern part of Fayette township. He also recently purchased four hundred acres just west of Lamoni, which he operates together with his son-in-law, Loren Truman. At one time he was in the hardware business in partnership with his father-in-law, John Hatcher, an association that was maintained for two years. On the 31st of October, 1913, the Farmers Grain & Seed Company was organized and Mr. Haas was made the manager of the concern. The headquarters are at Lamoni and the officers are as follows: Eli Hayer, president; S. S. Keown, vice president; Oliver Hayer, secretary; and D. P. Steckel, treasurer. The directors are: O. L. Weld, Robert A. Hart, John Strecker, O. M. Rew and J. S. Teale. The company is incorporated and is capitalized at twenty-five thousand dollars. It handles grains and all kinds of seed and has erected a well equipped elevator at Lamoni. Its business has grown steadily from the start and Mr. Haas has proved an aggressive and judicious manager. He understands all phases of the business thoroughly and is recognized as a factor in the commercial life of Lamoni. .

Mr. Haas was married in Greene county, Iowa, to Miss Mollie A. Hatcher, who was reared in Cooper. They have three daughters: Flava, the wife of Loren Truman; and Myrtle and Jeannette, both at home. Mr. Haas gives his political allegiance to the republican party and fraternally is identified with the Odd Fellows and the Yeomen. He has many admirable traits of character and has won the respect and esteem of all who have come in contact with him, whether in business or social relations.

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### O. L. FRAZIER.

The success of the Farmers Bank is due in no small measure to the efficiency of its cashier, O. L. Frazier, who was born in Akron, Harrison county, Missouri, on the 1st of January, 1869, a son of S. R. and Melvina J. (Severe) Frazier, both natives of Ohio. While living in Missouri the father followed agricultural pursuits, but after his removal to Davis City, Decatur county, engaged in the general merchandise business and also operated a flour mill. He passed away on the 28th of April, 1908, but his widow survives. They were the parents of four children: O. L.; Clarence S. and Glenn R., who are operating the mill formerly owned by their father; and Hazel, the wife of Leigh R. Howell, of Omaha, Nebraska.



O. L. Frazier was reared in Davis City and after completing the course offered in the local schools attended business college at Des Moines, Iowa. Upon leaving that institution he entered his father's store and was employed there until August 1, 1902, when he and his uncle, J. A. Frazier, of Leon, bought out the interest of E. D. Dorn and Son in the Farmers Bank of Davis City. Our subject became cashier of the institution, a position which he has since held, and his uncle is vice president thereof. The assistant cashier is A. F. Radnich. The institution is a private bank owned by J. A. Frazier, O. L. Frazier, A. F. Radnich and Dr. J. W. Wailes. The capital stock is ten thousand dollars and the deposits now total eighty thousand dollars, which is proof of the confidence which the people of Davis City and the surrounding country have in the sound judgment and integrity of the owners and officers of the bank.

Mr. Frazier was married on the 23d of August, 1905, to Miss Myrta Howell, whose birth occurred on the 5th of July, 1879. Her father, Professor J. M. Howell, is the supervising editor of this history of Decatur county and her mother was in her maidenhood Miss Sarah C. Burris. Mr. and Mrs. Frazier have had three children: O. L., Jr., who was born on the 3d of October, 1906; Marjorie, whose birth occurred on the 27th of August, 1909; and Mildred, who was born August 3, 1911, and died March 23, 1913.

Mr. Frazier is a republican and for five years was clerk of New Buda township. He is an enthusiastic Mason and belongs to the chapter and commandery of the York Rite of Leon and the Mystic Shrine at Davenport, Iowa. He also holds membership in the Order of the Eastern Star and is likewise affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He takes much interest in religious work and is a member of the gospel team of the local Methodist Episcopal church, to which he belongs. He is one of the leading financiers of Davis City and his worth is recognized in banking circles of this section of the state.

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### JAMES BRAINERD HORNER, M. D.

Dr. James Brainerd Horner is of Scotch-Irish parentage, and is a native of Wisconsin. He was born July 18, 1849, near the well known summer resort, Lake Geneva. The beautiful park now known as Kay's Park, just across the lake from the Young Men's Christian Association Conference Park is a part of the homestead that his father, Samuel Horner, received from the United States government.





DR. JAMES B. HORNER



While yet an infant, James B. Horner removed with his parents to Marshall county, Illinois, and thence in 1855 to Appanoose county, Iowa, to the farm near Moravia, where his boyhood days were spent. Though but a child of five at the time of the removal to Iowa, the doctor retains a vivid recollection of many of the incidents of the long journey across the Illinois and Iowa prairies in the old-time covered wagon.

Dr. Horner's early education was received in the district school. At the age of eighteen he commenced teaching thereby earning the money to cover the expense of a two years college course in the Wesleyan University at Mount Pleasant, Iowa. After leaving college he continued teaching and reading medicine with the late Dr. E. M. Reynolds of Centerville, until 1871 when he entered Bennett Medical College, Chicago. He was graduated from that institution with the degree of M. D. on the 29th of March, 1882, having interspersed his medical course with eleven years of successful practice. He has never ceased to be a student in his attitude toward his profession. He has given especial attention to the study of diseases of the eye and ear, and has been signally successful in his treatment of such diseases. In 1896 he took a post-graduate course in New York city. He has been a member of the Decatur County Medical Association for thirty years, serving the association many times in the capacity of president. He has also been honored three times with the presidency of the Iowa State Eclectic Medical Society. He is a member of the National Eclectic Medical Society, and attended the annual session of that organization, at San Francisco in 1915.

In the same year that he began the study of medicine he was united in marriage to Margaret Lorena Arnold, the youngest child of Lewis and Margaret Arnold, pioneer settlers of Monroe county, Iowa. When he entered Bennett Medical College he was the father of two children. His family had increased to five when he received his degree in 1882. The fact that he was able wholly through his own efforts, to give himself his literary and, later, his medical education, while caring for his family bespeaks the energy and resolute determination that have contributed largely to his success and achievement. He began the practice of medicine at Moravia, but, through association with his brother-in-law S. W. Hurst and Samuel Bowman he removed to Decatur county in 1875, locating at Davis City. His name is intimately associated with the early history of the incorporated town. The writer thinks he may have been the first mayor of the town, if not, he was among the first to serve in that capacity.

Those were the days that tried men's souls, in the little border town. The southern part of the county, especially along the banks of Grand river, was infested by a band of outlaws and rowdies, who strove to make a rendezvous of Davis City. The conflict between law and order was a sharp one, and one that entailed much personal danger on the officials who stood for a clean town. The stories and tales which the Doctor recounts of those early days, would fill a volume with material of greater interest to the average reader than anything found in the pages of this biography.

For twenty-five years Dr. Horner resided in Davis City, practicing medicine and in every possible way serving the community as an enterprising citizen should. In 1900 he purchased the practice and residence of Dr. John Hansen, of Lamoni, and moved with his family to that place, where he still resides with his youngest daughter. The death of his wife occurred September 9, 1911.

As a man and physician Dr. Horner enjoys the confidence and esteem of all who know him well. His skill as a trustworthy physician is recognized throughout Decatur county and other parts of southern Iowa and throughout northern Missouri. He has gained material prosperity, but he values yet more highly the standing which he has attained in his profession, the personal esteem in which he is held by his fellow practitioners and the wide opportunity his profession brings him for service to humanity.

In politics, Dr. Horner has always been staunch in his support of the principles of democracy. Although he has taken an active part in the affairs of the democratic party, he is a patriot, not a partisan. He served eight years upon the pension board, during both the Cleveland administrations, and was appointed again to the same position at the beginning of Wilson's administration.

Dr. Horner has always been an interested student of the Bible. He is broad in his religious views, although he has never severed his connection with the Presbyterian church, with which he united in early manhood, and which he has always supported as he has had opportunity.

Very soon after Dr. Horner took up his residence at Davis City, he became a member of the Masonic blue lodge, and was instrumental in the organization of the blue lodge at Lamoni soon after his removal to that town. He has served as worshipful master for a score of years or more, during which time he has perhaps conferred more degrees and buried more Masons than any man in the county. He is also a member of the chapter and the commandery at Leon. His eldest son was a member of the blue lodge, and two daughters

are members of the Order of the Eastern Star, with which order his wife was also identified.

To Dr. and Mrs. Horner were born seven children: Florence Mabel, superintendent of schools of Decatur county; Ernest Eugene, who died February 22, 1907; Maggie Lillian, who died at the age of five months; Lewis Hurst, who married Coral Smith, of Lamoni, and who resides near Davis City; Grace Gertrude, now Mrs. D. J. Walker, of Lamoni; Georgia Arnold, now Mrs. A. H. Smith, of Lamoni; and Helen Hildred, who keeps the home for her father. Dr. Horner is justly proud of the "third generation" with whom he is a great favorite. They are Dean Eugene and Margaret Ernestine, children of the deceased son, Ernest E. Horner; Lewis Brainerd, Elizabeth Grace and James Brandon Horner; Raymond Horner Smith; and Lowell Jerome Walker.

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### A. F. RADNICH.

A. F. Radnich is the popular and efficient assistant cashier of the Farmers Bank of Davis City. He was born here on the 14th of October, 1878, a son of Stephen and Sarah (Boldman) Radnich. The father was born in Hungary on the 20th of September, 1828, and the birth of the mother occurred in Pike county, Ohio, on the 17th of May, 1845. In 1848 Mr. Radnich served in the war in Hungary and was taken prisoner, being held for some time. Eventually he and several others escaped and made their way to America. He landed in this country March 7, 1850, when about twenty-two years old, and located in New York, where he learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for some time in the east. Later he went to New Orleans and worked at carpentering there until he removed to Garden Grove, Decatur county, Iowa. He engaged in business as a contractor for several years, but subsequently turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, buying land near Davis City. He added to his holdings until he became the owner of six hundred and sixty-six acres, which he operated until his demise. For ten or twelve years previous to his death he was the president of the Farmers Bank of Davis City and since he was called to his reward there has been no president of that institution. At the time of the Civil war he gave indubitable proof of his allegiance to his adopted country by serving with the Home Guards. He was president of the school board for fifteen years and took an active interest in everything relating to the welfare of his community. He resided



in Decatur county for many years, as he arrived here previous to the Civil war and continued to make his home here until his death on the 13th of September, 1912. He lacked but seven days of being eighty-four years of age and his life was not only one of length of years but also of worthy accomplishment and public-spirited service. His widow survives at the age of seventy years and resides in Davis City.

A. F. Radnich was reared in Davis City and attended the public schools in the acquirement of his education. He remained upon the home farm until he was of age and then for four years followed agricultural pursuits independently. At the end of that time he removed to Davis City and accepted the position of assistant cashier in the Farmers Bank. He has since held that office and has demonstrated his ability to discharge efficiently the duties that devolve upon him. He owns some stock in the institution, of which he is also a director.

On the 13th of November, 1901, Mr. Radnich married Miss Gertrude Craig, a daughter of Thurman and Ella (Parnley) Craig, natives respectively of Decatur county, Iowa, and of Michigan. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Radnich was one of the earliest settlers in this part of Iowa and her father was for many years actively engaged in agricultural pursuits in Decatur county. He and his wife are now living retired in Davis City. Mr. and Mrs. Radnich are the parents of two children: Francis A., eleven years of age; and Paul D., seven years old.

Mr. Radnich casts his ballot in support of the candidates and policies of the republican party, which he deems the party of reform and progress, and he has served ably as a member of the city council. Much of the principles that guide his conduct may be gathered from the fact that he belongs to the Masonic order. He has earned a place among the able and discreet financiers of Decatur county and has the respect of all who have had dealings with him.

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### WILLIAM WALLACE BLAIR.

William Wallace Blair was an early settler of Decatur county and became well known here, especially in the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints, as he was a minister of that denomination and editor of the church paper published at Lamoni. He was the fifth son of James and Fannie (Hamilton) Blair and was born in the town of Holley, Orleans county, New York, on the 11th of October, 1828. His parents were of Scotch-Irish descent and both of his grand-

parents served in the Revolutionary war, while his father fought in the War of 1812. The latter removed with his wife to Orleans county, New York, from Blandford, near Worcester, Massachusetts, and in 1838 the family home was established in Illinois, in the vicinity of what is now the city of Amboy. At that time there were few settlers in that part of the Prairie state and Chicago, one hundred miles distant, was for a number of years their nearest grain and stock market. As it was first of all necessary to break the virgin sod, to erect log cabins in which to live and to care for the crops, upon which depended the food for the family during the winter, it was several years before schools and churches were erected and the conditions of life were in all respects those of a pioneer region in the middle west.

William W. Blair grew to manhood in Illinois and as his strength increased assisted more and more in the improvement of the farm. In 1854 he left home and engaged in commercial pursuits at East Paw Paw, Lee county, Illinois. After passing through the financial crisis incident to the unexpectedly early close of the Crimean war he settled on a farm which he owned near Amboy but in April, 1859, he entered the active ministry of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints and for twenty-six years labored in Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, California, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Montana and Colorado. He met with success in his work and did much to further the growth of his church. In April 1885, he left the ministry and located at Lamoni, Iowa, where he was for many years identified with the editorial office of the Herald publishing house, the official church publishing house. He exerted a great influence through his connection with that concern, which publishes not only the Herald but also religious books, and gained a reputation as a clear and forceful writer. He believed that the power of the press was greater than that of the pulpit and it was for this reason that he abandoned the ministry and entered the publishing field. He was devotedly attached to his church and was at all times ready to defend it against unjust aspersions, the one object of his life being to promote its advancement. However, his complete loyalty to his church and the vigor with which he stood for his convictions did not mean that he felt any bitterness toward those who thought differently than he. On the contrary those who were associated with him found him a broad-minded and liberal man of progressive ideas who was at all times kindly, courteous and considerate of others.

On Christmas Day, 1849, Mr. Blair was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth J. Doty and they became the parents of seven children, five sons and two daughters. Fannie C. died at Amboy in 1860 but the other children survive, namely: Charles E., who is manager of the Supply Store at Lamoni; Minnie B., the widow of D. F. Nicholson, who was one of the most active and most successful business men of Lamoni; George W., who is mayor of Lamoni and is also engaged in the real-estate business here; William A., who is the manager of a department store at Galien, Michigan; David H., who is connected with a large wholesale millinery house of Kansas City; and Fred B., who is manager of the electric light plant at Lamoni. The wife and mother died in June, 1912, and those who had been closely associated with her felt that her church and her community had lost one whom they could ill spare. She was a devout Christian and her unselfish love for others prompted her to assist those who needed aid and many remember her kindness with gratitude. She was an active worker in the church and was president of the Mite Society, an efficient organization of women whose purpose is to care for the poor and to supply funds for the prosecution of the work of the various departments of the church.

Mr. Blair gave his support at the polls to the democratic party but never aspired to public office. He was a man of much ability and energy and his influence was widely felt in his church and his demise, which occurred in 1886, was sincerely mourned.

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### JOHN O. McKIBBEN.

John O. McKibben devotes his attention to the pursuits of general farming and stock-raising and is the owner of a valuable tract of land embracing two hundred and fifty acres in Garden Grove township. His birth occurred in this county on the 25th of May, 1872, his parents being John and Harriet (Hurd) McKibben, both of whom were natives of Franklin county, Ohio. They came to Decatur county, Iowa, in 1857 and in the spring of 1865 purchased the farm which is now in possession of our subject. John McKibben, Sr., operated the property until 1900, when he put aside the active work of the fields and removed to town, spending the remainder of his life in honorable retirement. He passed away on the 26th of November, 1913, and his demise was the occasion of deep and widespread regret, for he had won many friends during the fifty-six years of his resi-

dence here. For many years he was a member of the official board of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his wife also belonged, the latter passing away in that faith in 1896. To them were born six children, as follows: Frank T.; Mary E., who is the wife of George King; Mattie L., deceased; Sarah B., who gave her hand in marriage to A. P. Kirby; Elizabeth H., the wife of W. R. Richards; and John O., of this review. On the 24th of August, 1900, the father married again, his second wife being Martha L. McKibben, who died in 1914.

John O. McKibben attended public school at Garden Grove, subsequently pursued a normal course and later entered Elliott's Business College of Burlington, Iowa. He then returned home and has since been successfully engaged in farming on the place where he was born and reared. In connection with the cultivation of the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he also devotes considerable attention to stock-raising, making a specialty of shorthorn cattle. His property comprises two hundred and fifty acres of rich and productive land in Garden Grove township and is excellently improved with a handsome residence and ample barns and outbuildings. There is also an orchard producing a variety of fruit.

On the 12th of September, 1900, Mr. McKibben was united in marriage to Miss Nellie A. Thomas, a daughter of H. B. Thomas, of Decatur county. To them have been born five children, namely: Ruberta L., Julia H., Martha L., Norman N. and Esther.

Mr. McKibben is a member of the official board of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his wife also belongs and in the work of which they take an active and helpful interest. He enjoys an extensive and favorable acquaintance in the county in which his entire life has been spent and is widely recognized as one of its representative agriculturists and esteemed citizens.

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### AARON A. COZAD.

Although he has retired from the work of the farm Aaron A. Cozad, of Pleasanton, is still actively engaged in business, taking contracts for cement work. He is also one of the owners of the Pleasanton Telephone Company. His birth occurred on the 16th of February, 1845, in Indiana, and he is a son of Alice and Emeline (Swank) Cozad, natives respectively of Virginia and Ohio. The father removed to Indiana in an early day and there engaged in



farming until November, 1854, when he emigrated to Decatur county, Iowa, with his family, entering eighty acres of land in Morgan township. He began improving his farm and devoted his time and energies to its operation until his demise, which occurred in 1868. His widow survived for many years, dying in 1901.

Aaron A. Cozad was a child of nine years when he accompanied his parents on their removal to this county and he acquired the greater part of his education in the local district schools. He remained at home with his mother and gave his time to the operation of the home farm until he was twenty-five years of age. He then rented land, which he cultivated until 1877, when he purchased eighty acres on section 24, Hamilton township. As soon as possible he cleared his place and made improvements thereon and as his resources increased he purchased additional land, becoming the owner of two hundred acres, which he operated until 1895. He then rented his farm and removed to Pleasanton, where he purchased a good residence. However, he was unable to live in idleness and turned his attention to the cement business, specializing in the building of sidewalks. He is still so engaged and has done much work of that character in Pleasanton. He and John Painter are the sole owners of the local telephone company, known as the Pleasanton Telephone Company, and this concern is in a very prosperous condition.

In April, 1871, occurred the marriage of Mr. Cozad and Miss Elizabeth Gammill, a daughter of James and Ann (Clark) Gammill, who were born respectively in Pennsylvania and Ohio. They settled in Decatur county in 1852 and the father farmed here until his demise in 1885. The mother died in 1892. To Mr. and Mrs. Cozad was born a daughter, Hattie, who is now a stenographer in the Methodist Hospital at Des Moines, Iowa. In January, 1903, Mr. Cozad married Mrs. Hattie Hutchison, a daughter of Frank and Elizabeth (Dreese) Walker, natives of Indiana and pioneers of Mercer county, Missouri, where they arrived in 1852. The father followed farming during the remainder of his life, passing away in October, 1914. The mother survived until March, 1915. By her previous marriage Mrs. Cozad has three children: Francis, a resident of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Elsie, the wife of Sherman Kindred, who is living in Colorado; and Otto, a farmer of this county.

Mr. Cozad is a republican and throughout his life has manifested much genuine concern for the public welfare. During the Civil war he gave indisputable proof of his patriotism by serving in the Union army, being a member of Company K, Thirty-ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He enlisted from Leon when seventeen years of age and



served for three years. He was taken prisoner at Allatoona, Georgia, and was held for three months. He keeps in touch with his comrades of former days through his membership in the Grand Army of the Republic and fraternally he is identified with the Masonic order. His religious faith is that of the Christian Union church. Energy and sound judgment have always characterized Mr. Cozad and in his life he has achieved much, not only gaining financial independence, but also aiding in the development of his county along both material and moral lines.

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### FREDERICK W. NEWCOMB.

Frederick W. Newcomb is a member of the firm of Foreman, Teale & Company, of Lamoni, who in addition to dealing in farm implements of all kinds have the agency for the Ford automobile and also retail flour and feed and who likewise buy and sell real estate. The birth of Mr. Newcomb occurred in Adams county, Iowa, on the 25th of March, 1876, and he is a son of Ralph and Adelina Cecilia (Perry) Newcomb, early residents of Iowa. In 1897 our subject removed to Decatur county and engaged in the lumber business for a number of years. He became interested in the implement trade many years ago but upon selling the lumber business returned to the farm and remained there for a time. On again taking up his residence in Lamoni he became a member of the firm of Foreman, Teale & Company, which was established in 1902. They carry a large and complete assortment of agricultural implements, are also agents for the Ford automobiles and handle automobile accessories and for more than a year have dealt in real estate, buying and selling outright. They also maintain a retail flour and feed department and the various phases of their business are all prospering. The success of the company is due in no small measure to the business experience and sound judgment of Mr. Newcomb and the careful attention which he gives to the conduct of the affairs of the firm. They employ two or three men steadily and their trade is constantly increasing.

Mr. Newcomb married Miss Fannie Lyons, of Adams county, Iowa, a daughter of W. S. Lyons, an active and prominent business man of Corning, who was at one time county clerk, and who is now one of the largest dealers in grain, flour and feed in his section of the county. Mrs. Newcomb was reared and educated in Adams county and by her marriage has become the mother of three daugh-

ters, Harriet Adeline, Dorothy Louise and Elizabeth Jane, all residents of Decatur county.

Mr. Newcomb is a democrat and has been a member of the city council and has also served on the school and park boards. He is also a trustee of Graceland College at Lamoni and is one of the stalwart friends of that growing institution. Both he and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal church and for many years he served as superintendent of its Sunday school. He is an unusually well informed man, as he had excellent educational advantages in his youth, being a student in Simpson College, and as he has throughout his life read widely and observed closely. His advice and opinion carry weight and he is generally a leader in movements whose aim is the betterment of the community along material, moral or civic lines.

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### JUDGE JOHN W. HARVEY.

Judge John W. Harvey was not only a recognized leader of the bar of Decatur county but for eight years served as judge of the third judicial district, proving able and impartial in the administration of justice. He was also an important factor in the development of banking in his county and his life was one of great usefulness to his community. His birth occurred in Wells county, Indiana, on the 16th of September, 1840, and his parents were John and Annie (Guthrie) Harvey. The father died when our subject was but five years of age and the following year the mother and her six children removed to Jasper county, Iowa, where John W. Harvey grew to manhood.

In his youth he recognized the advantages of a good education and through his own efforts was able to attend Iowa Central University at Pella. He had previously taken a preparatory course at Indianola and was willing to make any sacrifice in order to achieve his purpose—that of securing a college education. While still a student at the university he enlisted as a private in Company G, Eighteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, joining the army on the 7th of July, 1862. After serving as a private and as a noncommissioned officer he was made first lieutenant of the Eleventh United States Infantry and in the fall of 1865 he received a captain's commission. For some time after the close of the war he served in the commissary department of the army but in 1866 was discharged from the service. He led his company in many important battles and his record as a soldier was a most commendable one. Upon his return from the army he con-

tinued his interrupted education at Iowa Central University and after a year of further study was graduated from that institution. He then matriculated in the law department of the State University of Iowa and in June, 1868, received his professional degree.

Not long afterward, at the request of the late Major J. L. Young, Mr. Harvey located in Leon and formed a partnership with Major Young, which was continued for two years, at the end of which time the major withdrew from the firm to enter another line of business. For some time Mr. Harvey continued alone in the practice of law but later was again associated with Major Young, the partnership being maintained until Mr. Harvey was chosen judge of the third judicial district. He served upon the bench for two terms, or eight years, and gained an enviable reputation for fairness and integrity. He not only possessed a detailed and exact knowledge of law but also had that attitude of mind that enabled him to consider only the merits of a case and to rise above all prejudices and predilections. He insisted on the members of the bar respecting the dignity of the court but in his rulings was invariably fair and he held in full measure the respect of the attorneys who practiced in the third judicial district. Following the expiration of his second term as judge he formed a law partnership with R. L. Parrish and for eleven years the firm of Harvey & Parrish continued in existence. They represented many important interests and the court records show that they won a large percentage of their cases. When Mr. Parrish was elevated to the district bench Judge Harvey continued alone in practice until he admitted his son, James F. Harvey, to a partnership. The firm of John W. Harvey & Son was formed in 1901 and it continued until the demise of the father in 1913. For fifty years Judge Harvey was a resident of Leon and in that time was connected as counsel or as judge with most of the important cases tried in the local courts. He won a wide reputation for his success in the settling of estates, as he was generally able to adjust matters between the heirs and avoid taking the disputes into court. For many years he was prominently connected with the banking interests of his county and from 1894 until his demise was president of the Farmers & Traders State Bank of Leon. He was also for a number of years interested in banks at Lamoni and Mount Ayr.

In 1868 occurred the marriage of Judge Harvey and Miss Emma Eaton and to them three children were born: Charles, who passed away in 1892, when nineteen years of age; James, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; and Raymond, who died in 1891 when an infant. Mrs. Harvey is still living and is highly esteemed by all

who know her. In 1914 she presented to the city a tract of land on South Main street consisting of three full blocks, to be used as a park. This has been named Harvey Park and a landscape gardener is now at work transforming it into a beautiful spot. The city has been liberal in its appropriations to make the park come up to the anticipations of the generous donor. A brother of Judge Harvey, Jerome L. Harvey, of Leon, a sister, Mrs. Clara Phifer, of Manitou, Colorado, a half-brother, Taylor Fry, of Montana, and a half-sister, Mrs. Mary Coldren, of Oberlin, Kansas, also survive him.

Judge Harvey gave his political allegiance to the republican party but always placed the public good above partisanship. He was always ready to do all within his power to promote the advancement of the community along material, moral or civic lines, giving generously both of his time and money. His kindness and the attractiveness of his personality bound many to him by strong ties of affection and he ever considered friendship inviolable. A lover of good literature, he found much enjoyment in the fine library which he owned and his happiest hours were those spent at home with his family. He was a loyal member of the Grand Army of the Republic and took much interest in everything relating to the order and to the veterans of the Civil war. At the time of his death the Decatur County Bar passed resolutions, in which, among other things, it was said: "By his removal the state has lost a learned jurist; the county in which he lived an honorable and noble citizen; the bar (of which he was the senior member) a courteous and obliging brother and his family a loving, faithful and devoted husband and father."

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### DENNIS R. SLAUTER.

Dennis R. Slauter, whose residence in Decatur county covers six decades, has been actively and successfully identified with agricultural pursuits throughout his entire business career and now owns three hundred and fifty-four acres of valuable land in Burrell township, making his home on section 36. His birth occurred in Indiana on the 6th of June, 1841, his parents being William and Eleanor (Mugrove) Slauter, both of whom were natives of Ohio. The father removed to Indiana in a very early day and followed farming in that state until 1855, when he drove across the country to Decatur county, Iowa, here entering and improving a tract of land. The operation of that property claimed his attention until the time of his demise, which



occurred in 1862. His wife, who survived him for about a third of a century, was called to her final rest in 1895.

Dennis R. Slauter was reared and educated in his native state and in Decatur county, being a youth of fourteen when the family home was established here. He remained with his parents until he had attained his majority and then started out as an agriculturist on his own account, cultivating rented land for ten years. On the expiration of that period he bought a tract of twenty-one acres in Burrell township and as time passed and his financial resources increased, owing to his well directed industry and capable management, he augmented his holdings by additional purchase until they now embrace three hundred and fifty-four acres of rich and productive land. He now resides on a tract of seventy acres on section 36 and leases the remainder of his property, owning two excellent farms which are splendidly improved in every particular. He has always been practical and progressive and the prosperity which has crowned his efforts is well merited.

Mr. Slauter has been married twice. In February, 1866, he wedded Miss Martha Schaffner, a daughter of Mathias and Harriet Schaffner, who were natives of Ohio and pioneer settlers of Decatur county, Iowa, coming here in 1855. In this county the father carried on farming throughout the remainder of his life. To Mr. and Mrs. Slauter were born thirteen children, namely: John, deceased; Dora; Larkin; Mary; Clara; Frank; Ida; Edward; Fred; Lloyd; Samuel; Gertrude, who has passed away and Birdie, also deceased. The wife and mother was called to her final rest in November, 1898, and on the 3d of September, 1903, Mr. Slauter was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Amanda J. (Cornell) Wykoff, the widow of Frank Wykoff and daughter of William and Mary (Neely) Cornell, who were natives of Pennsylvania and Indiana respectively. Mr. Cornell, an agriculturist by occupation, was successfully engaged in farming in the states of Ohio and Pennsylvania throughout practically his entire business career. His demise occurred in 1879, while his wife passed away in 1910. To Dennis R. and Amanda J. Slauter have been born three children, Forrest, Evangeline and Violet, who are attending school at Davis City. By her former marriage Mrs. Slauter had five children, as follows: Madge; Fred; Don; Bertie, who died in infancy; and Laurence, who passed away October 14, 1910, when seven years of age.

In his political views Mr. Slauter is a democrat, loyally supporting the men and measures of that party at the polls. He has now passed the seventy-fourth milestone on life's journey and enjoys the



respect and veneration which should ever be accorded one who has traveled thus far on this earthly pilgrimage and whose career has been at all times upright and honorable.

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### J. W. ROWELL, D. D. S.

Dr. J. W. Rowell, a most active and successful practitioner of dentistry in Leon, who has been identified with the profession here since December, 1882, is a native son of Iowa, his birth having occurred in Union county, January 8, 1864. His parents, N. W. and Anna E. (Ownby) Rowell, were pioneers of Decatur county, both having been brought here in their childhood days. The father was born in Ohio but came to Iowa with his parents when but a boy. He studied law in the University of Ohio, at Athens, and was admitted to practice in the early '60s. He has become prominent in the legal profession and at one time served as county judge of Decatur county, while for two terms he was a member of the general assembly. Although he is now in his seventy-ninth year, he is still actively engaged in practice at Afton, in Union county, this state. He is a republican in his political belief and a Methodist in religious faith. His wife, who is a native of Virginia, is also identified with the Methodist church, and both are highly respected in their community.

Dr. J. W. Rowell was reared in Union county and at the usual age entered the public schools. He supplemented the education there acquired by a year's study in Simpson College, at Indianola, Iowa, and having decided upon the dental profession as a life work, he entered the dental department of the University of Pennsylvania, graduating therefrom with the class of 1888. He at once opened an office in Leon and in the years that have since come and gone he has built up a splendid clientage. His office, which is now located in the Exchange National Bank building, is equipped with the most modern appliances known to the dental fraternity and his practice has grown to such an extent that he now employs an assistant. The doctor has demonstrated his ability in a profession which demands not only scientific knowledge but also mechanical skill and ability.

Dr. Rowell was married to Miss Grace Curry, who was born and reared in Leon and who is a daughter of E. W. Curry. Her father, who was a prominent attorney of this city, also took a very active part in politics as an adherent of the democratic party, being well known in political circles throughout the state. At the time of his

death, in 1896, he was serving as a member of the democratic state central committee. His widow survives and makes her home in Leon. Their daughter, Mrs. Rowell, was accorded liberal educational advantages, having pursued a course of study in the Ladies Seminary at Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. and Mrs. Rowell have one son, Edgar, who is a high-school student.

Dr. Rowell is a republican in his political views and affiliations and in religious belief he is a Methodist, both he and his wife belonging to the church of that denomination in Leon. He is likewise prominent in Masonic circles and belongs to the Shrine at Davenport. He is also a member of the State and National Dental Associations and in 1914 served as president of the Corning District Dental Society. He has ever held to high ideals in his professional service and his ability places him in a prominent position among Iowa's dentists.

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### HARRY R. LAYTON, M. D.

Dr. Harry R. Layton, of Leon, is the dean of the medical profession of Decatur county and has built up a practice that in importance is second to none in this part of the state. Born in Lee county, Iowa, on the 11th of September, 1853, he is a son of Captain J. M. and Cora (Raymond) Layton, natives respectively of Dearborn county, Indiana, and of Connecticut. In 1862 the father went to the defense of the Union, becoming a private in Company E, Nineteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He saw much hard service and his loyalty and bravery won him successive promotions until he became captain of his company, although he was in the army but little more than a year, being mustered out in the fall of 1863, on account of severe wounds which he had received in the battle of Perry Grove, where he was thrice wounded. Upon returning home he engaged in the plastering business, which he followed the remainder of his life. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and took an active interest not only in the affairs of his post but in everything pertaining to the old soldiers. His demise occurred on the 4th of September, 1901, and his wife passed away in 1878. To them were born five children: Charles; Dr. Harry R., of this review; Frank; Elizabeth, who married George Hurst, of Leon; and Margaret, who died at the age of seventeen.

Doctor Layton received his elementary education in the public schools and later attended the Fort Madison Academy. After reading medicine for some time he entered the Keokuk Medical College, from which he was graduated in 1874 with the degree of M. D. On the 4th of May of that year he located at Leon and opened an office for the practice of his profession. During the forty-one years that have since elapsed he has continued in practice here and has gained a wide-spread reputation as a skillful and conscientious physician and surgeon. He has practiced in Decatur county longer than any other physician in the county and is held in high esteem by his professional brethren as well as by the general public. He is a member of the Decatur County Medical Society, of which he has served as secretary and president, and he is also identified with the Iowa State Medical Society.

On the 6th of November, 1877, was solemnized the marriage of Doctor Layton and Miss Martha M. Post, of Decatur county, and they have become the parents of two children: Orr H., who died in infancy; and Raymond G. Doctor Layton gives his political allegiance to the republican party but has never desired to hold office. He is prominent in local Masonic circles, belonging to Tripolis Commandery, K. T., of Leon, of which he has been commander, and being also identified with the Mystic Shrine. He is a faithful and consistent member of the Presbyterian church and is serving on its official board. No movement which has as its aim the upbuilding of Leon and Decatur county appeals to him in vain. Those who know him respect him for what he has achieved not only professionally but also in the service of his community.

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### JOHN BOYD.

John Boyd, a progressive and efficient farmer of Richland township, was born in Highland county, Ohio, in 1832. His father, Thomas Boyd, who was of Irish descent, early settled in Highland county, where he carried on agricultural operations. His political allegiance was given to the republican party and his religious faith was that of the Methodist Episcopal church. He died in 1867 when about sixty-three years of age. His wife, who in her maidenhood was Miss Annie Miller, was born in Pennsylvania of German ancestry. She was also a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Her demise occurred in 1864 when she was sixty-three years old. They



JOHN BOYD





were the parents of six children, of whom our subject was the second in order of birth. His brother Allen enlisted in the Thirty-fourth Iowa Volunteer Infantry in 1862 and died in a hospital from the effects of wounds received at the front on the 15th of April, 1865, the day on which President Lincoln died.

John Boyd attended the district schools of the Buckeye state and in his early manhood taught school for a time. In 1852 he came to Iowa with his parents, the family first locating in Wapello county, but in 1855 they removed to Decatur county and took up their residence on a farm in Richland township which they owned. Our subject continued to follow the profession of teaching in this county during the winter months, while the summers were devoted to farm work. In 1878 he purchased an excellent farm of two hundred and eighty acres on section 28, Richland township, and thereafter gave his entire time to agricultural pursuits. He carried on general farming and stock-raising and his labors yielded him a good financial return. His widow owns one hundred and sixty acres of land a mile north of Grand River.

Mr. Boyd married Miss Elizabeth Annie Bullock, who was born in Decatur county, Indiana, December 11, 1841. Her parents, Curtis and Martha (Zeigler) Bullock, emigrated to Iowa in 1850, locating on a farm in Keokuk county, whence they later removed to Missouri. Mr. Bullock was a successful farmer and also an ordained minister of the Baptist church, to which his wife also belonged. Both passed away in the Iron state, he in 1898 when in his eighty-third year and she in 1892 when in her seventy-sixth year. They were the parents of eight children, of whom Mrs. Boyd is the second in order of birth. Her brother George enlisted for service in the Civil war in the Eighteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry in 1862 and served until the close of hostilities. He was in many important engagements and was with Sherman on his march to the sea. He held the rank of first sergeant. John W. Bullock, another brother, enlisted in the Thirty-fourth Iowa Volunteer Infantry in 1862, when but a lad of sixteen years, and served throughout the war.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd became the parents of seven children. Henry Russell, who was born in 1862, is farming in Ringgold county and is president of the bank at Tingley. He married Miss Margaret Edie and they have four children. Martha J., born in 1866, is the wife of Henry Bryant, of Richland township. Curtis A., who was born in 1869 and is farming in Grand River township, married Miss Susan Fear and they have three children. Ida Ellen, born in 1873, has for the past eight years been teaching in the Ames high school.

Nora J., whose birth occurred in 1877, is cashier of the Farmers State Bank of Grand River. Frank and Laura, twins, were born in 1881. Frank, who is managing the home farm, married Miss Mary Judd, and they have one child. Laura is the wife of Boyd Gale, by whom she has two children. Mrs. Boyd has nine living grandchildren. She is a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church and her many admirable traits of character have gained her the esteem of those who know her.

Mr. Boyd was a republican in politics and took the interest of a good citizen in public affairs, although he never sought official preferment. In his work as a farmer he was prompt and energetic and not only gained success for himself but also contributed to the development of his locality along agricultural lines. His demise, which occurred August 4, 1901, was sincerely mourned, and his memory is yet cherished by his friends.

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#### GUY PACE REED, M. D.

Dr. Guy Pace Reed, of Davis City, is one of the leading representatives of the medical profession in Decatur county and has given especial attention to the practice of surgery, in which he is very proficient. He was born February 18, 1875, in Putnam county, Missouri, a son of David P. and Harriet F. (Tarwater) Reed. The father, who was born in Ohio, was of Irish, German and Turkish descent. The paternal grandfather, William Reed, was born in Ireland in 1760 and married a lady of Turkish birth. David P. Reed was an agriculturist by occupation and for fifty-two years resided upon a farm in Putnam county, Missouri, which he entered from the government. His last years, however, were spent in Mercer county, Missouri, where his demise occurred in 1902. His wife was born in Missouri, of German and Scotch ancestry, and following his demise removed to Gravity, Iowa, but passed away at Shenandoah at the home of her son, Dr. D. W. Reed, in 1912. Mr. and Mrs. David P. Reed were the parents of ten children.

Dr. Guy P. Reed attended the district schools and later completed a course in the high school at Powersville, Missouri, after which he entered the University of Missouri at Columbia, matriculating there in 1895. He remained in that institution for one year and then became a student in the New Medical College at Keokuk, Iowa, but after a year entered the St. Louis College of Physicians & Surgeons, completing the three years' course in 1899 and receiving the degree

of M. D. Some time later the course was lengthened to four years and he returned and after further study was graduated in 1901 with the M. D. degree. He then went to Vienna, Austria, and took a five months' course in the Allgemeine Krankenshaus, or General Hospital. Upon returning to the United States he located in Davis City, Iowa, and in the intervening years has built up a large and distinctively representative practice. He also conducts a well equipped sanitarium on the second floor of the building in which his office is located and gives much attention to surgical work. Although he devoted many years to preparation for his profession he has never allowed himself to believe that his student days are over, but on the contrary is constantly seeking to add to his knowledge of both medical and surgical science.

Dr. Reed was married February 8, 1900, to Miss Edith Shelby, of St. Louis, a daughter of Joseph and Victoria (Cissel) Shelby. Her father was for many years a farmer of Perry county, Missouri, and was living there at the time of his demise. His widow survives and makes her home in St. Louis. Dr. and Mrs. Reed have two children: Roe B., who was born July 2, 1901, and who is now a student in the Davis City high school; and Shelby D., whose birth occurred November 16, 1905, and who is attending the Davis City schools.

Dr. Reed is a republican and was for one term mayor of Davis City, while for several years he has held the office of city physician. Fraternally he belongs to the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and his wife is a member of the Rebekahs. He holds membership in the Decatur County Medical Society, of which he served for one term as president; the Iowa State Medical Society, in which he is well known; and the American Medical Association. He has the confidence of the general public and of his colleagues in the profession and personally he is very popular. He is prominent in county and state medical circles and his practice has grown steadily since he first located in Davis City.

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### THOMAS TEALE.

Thomas Teale, president of the Farmers & Traders State Bank of Leon, is prominent in financial circles in this part of Iowa and is also known because of his connection with public affairs as for two terms he served as a member of the house of representatives of

the state legislature. He was born in Greenwich, England, June 10, 1842, of the marriage of Frederick and Letitia (Hamm) Teale, who in 1843 emigrated with their family to America. They first located in New York but later removed to Jo Daviess county, Illinois, where they spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of seven children, of whom five are living. Six sons served in the federal army during the Civil war, all of whom returned alive although five, including our subject, were wounded.

Thomas Teale grew to manhood in Illinois and received liberal educational advantages. He continued his studies while serving in the army, which indicates his determination to secure a thorough education. He enlisted in Company E, Fifteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, as a private and remained with that command until wounded at Shiloh. Being thus disabled for further service he was honorably discharged and returned to Illinois. At the close of the war he came to Decatur county, where he had resided for a time in 1860. At that time he made his home at Decatur City but upon returning to this county he secured land near what is now the site of the city of Lamoni. He turned his attention to the improving of his place and in the fall of 1879 erected the first business house in Lamoni, in which he conducted a general store for a number of years. Later he turned the management of the establishment over to his son Bert, who was connected therewith until 1894. In 1888 our subject came to Leon, where he engaged in merchandising as a member of the firm of Young & Teale, whose place of business was on the west side of the square. That firm continued to conduct the store until 1890, when Mr. Teale sold out his interest, Mr. Young becoming sole proprietor of the establishment. Mr. Teale then entered the banking business in Leon and in 1894 organized the Farmers & Traders Bank, a private institution, which later became the Farmers & Traders State Bank, under which name it is now conducted. Mr. Teale has been president of the bank since its organization and its steady growth has been largely due to his excellent management. His son, Fred E., a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work, is cashier of the institution. The bank owns the building in which it is located and which it has remodeled, making it one of the best bank buildings in the city. The upper floor is given over to offices. In 1892 our subject established the Commercial Bank of Lamoni, which he sold before establishing the Farmers & Traders State Bank at Leon. He is also heavily interested in the Farmers State Bank of Lamoni, which his son Ora manages, and the Iowa State Bank of Mount Ayr, which is conducted by his son Bert. Mr. Teale has con-



siderable real estate, owning a store building which he erected in Lamoni and a number of farms in the county. He understands business conditions thoroughly and is quick to recognize and take advantage of opportunities which many others fail to see. He is recognized as one of the most successful bankers of the county and his advice is often sought on matters of finance and investment.

In 1867 Mr. Teale was married in this county to Miss Lucinda Graham, who was born in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, and accompanied her parents, Theodore and Lethee Graham, to this county soon after the close of the Civil war. She passed away in 1877, leaving four sons: Fred E., Ora and Bert, previously mentioned; and Charles, who is engaged in the implement business at Mount Ayr. All are married and our subject has several grandchildren.

Mr. Teale is a republican and has twice been honored by election as representative of his district in the state legislature, serving as a member of that body during the twenty-first and twenty-second general assemblies. In that capacity he proved capable and public-spirited and made a very creditable record. He attends the Presbyterian church and his wife favored the Methodist church. He is a loyal member of Leon Post, No. 261, G. A. R., and through that organization keeps in touch with others who fought for the preservation of the Union. He is widely known and all who have been associated with him hold him in the highest respect and esteem him for his genuine worth.

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### G. S. FOREMAN.

G. S. Foreman, senior member of the firm of Foreman, Teale & Company, of Lamoni, who deal in implements and in real estate, was born at Lawrence, Van Buren county, Michigan, on the 14th of March, 1868, a son of John and Lucy (Setchell) Foreman, both of whom were natives of England. They were married in that country and remained there for several years, coming to the United States just before the outbreak of the Civil war. They located in Michigan, where the father gave his attention to farming. In 1876 they came to Decatur county and settled one mile south of Lamoni, the father operating a farm for six or seven years. He then removed to Lamoni and in 1881 became the owner of the hotel here now known as the West Hotel and conducted that hostelry for about two years, after which he sold it and purchased other property. He is still residing



at Lamoni, at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. His wife passed away in April, 1905, when seventy-five years old. He belongs to the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints, as did his wife. To them were born six children: Julia Inman, who died in 1910 in North Dakota; Mrs. Clara Harrington, who is living near Decatur; Joseph, proprietor of a cafe at Lamoni; Mrs. Waltenbauch, of Cainesville, Missouri; Mrs. E. C. McCook, of Pendleton, Oregon; and G. S., of this review.

The last named was eight years of age when the family located in Decatur county and he grew to manhood in this county. He received a high-school education and after putting aside his text-books gave his time to agricultural pursuits for about five years. At the end of that time he removed to Lamoni and entered the employ of Dancer & Smith, dealers in implements. He continued with their successors, Stafford, Walker & Jones, who in turn sold to Bowser & Biddeson, with whom Mr. Foreman remained until he became a member of the present firm of Foreman, Teale & Company. The last named concern deals extensively in farm implements and since 1914 have also acted as real-estate agents, operating mainly in the vicinity of Lamoni. The firm employs two or three men steadily and does a good business, selling implements, flour, feed, coal, automobiles and accessories.

Mr. Foreman is a republican and is a loyal worker in the party ranks. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias of Lamoni, in which organization he has many warm friends. There has never been any question as to his integrity and fair dealing, and his probity has been a factor of no little importance in his business success. Moreover, all who have been closely associated with him know him to be a man of excellent judgment.

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### JOHN W. WAILES, M. D.

Dr. John W. Wailes has built up a large and representative practice as a physician and surgeon and is also identified with a number of local business enterprises. He was born in Appanoose county, Iowa, on the 12th of December, 1865, a son of James W. and Zerelda (Needham) Wailes, natives of Indiana. The paternal grandparents settled with their family in Davis county, Iowa, in 1849 but removed to Appanoose county in 1851. There James W.

Wailes grew to manhood and as soon as he reached maturity he purchased land which he cultivated and improved. He added to his holdings from time to time and acquired title to about six hundred acres, which he operated for many years, deriving therefrom a handsome income. At length he retired and removed to Centerville, where he was living at the time of his death. He was very successful as a farmer and engaged extensively in stock-raising, contributing much to the advancement of stock-raising interests in his county. On the 22d of August, 1863, he enlisted as a private in the Union army, on the 24th of February, 1864, he was promoted eighth corporal and on the 1st of May of that year seventh corporal. On the 30th of July following he was taken prisoner at Newman, Georgia, and incarcerated in the notorious prison at Andersonville, Georgia, for two months. On the 1st of July, 1865, he was made fourth corporal and on the 27th of that month was promoted sergeant. His record as a soldier was distinctly creditable and throughout his entire life he performed his duty unflinchingly. His demise, which occurred on the 2d of March, 1908, when he was seventy-four years of age, was deeply regretted by his many friends. His widow is still living in Centerville at the age of seventy-one years.

Dr. John W. Wailes was reared in Appanoose county, Iowa, and there acquired a good general education. For two years he was principal of the Iconium schools and during that time devoted his leisure hours to the study of medicine. After teaching for two years he entered the College of Physicians & Surgeons at Keokuk, Iowa, completing his course there by graduation on the 10th of March, 1891. On the 8th of May of that year he located in Davis City and opened an office for the practice of medicine and surgery. During the twenty-four years that he has been located here he has gained the confidence of the general public and of his brethren of the medical fraternity and his practice is large and profitable. He believes thoroughly in the future prosperity and development of Decatur county and has invested in a number of local business enterprises. He owns stock in the Farmers Bank of Davis City and in 1901 aided in organizing the Exchange National Bank of Leon, of which he is a director. He also owns stock and is a director of the Katy Mercantile Company of Katy, Texas.

On the 13th of December, 1892, Dr. Wailes married Miss Jeannette Cartwright, a daughter of Frank P. and Harriet (Leechman) Cartwright, natives of Ohio and pioneers of Decatur county, Iowa. The father, who was a farmer, cultivated land here during

the greater part of his active life and still resides upon a farm a mile south of Davis City although he is retired. The mother died in March, 1914. Dr. and Mrs. Wailes have become the parents of six children: Helen Lucille, twenty years of age, who is attending Simpson College at Indianola; James W., a lad of eleven years, who is attending the Davis City schools; one who died in infancy; Maude, who died when three years old; Francis Drake, who died when an infant of three weeks; and John W., Jr., who died in 1901, when two years of age.

Dr. Wailes is a republican and for twenty-two years has served as chairman of his precinct, doing much in that time to promote the interests of his party. He belongs to the Masonic blue lodge of Davis City, to the chapter and commandery at Leon and to the Mystic Shrine at Davenport. He also holds membership in the local subordinate lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has held all of the chairs, and is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Yeomen and the Sons of Veterans. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. Along professional lines he holds membership in the Decatur County and Iowa State Medical societies and the American Medical Association. He was for eight years a member of the Board of United States Surgeons and is now medical examiner for twenty-two old line life insurance companies. He is a representative member of the medical profession in Decatur county and has not only gained success as a physician but has also been a factor in the community life of Davis City along many lines. He clearly recognizes the great importance of the public schools and during the three years that he was a member of the board of education did all in his power to secure the advancement of the local schools. He can be counted upon to cooperate with all movements that seek the material, moral and civic progress of his community and his fellow citizens hold him in high esteem.

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#### A. M. NOFTSGER.

A. M. Noftsger, a highly esteemed retired farmer of Bloomington township, where he has resided since 1868, has lived in Iowa since March, 1845, when he came to this state as a child with his parents, Jacob and Elizabeth (Fronk) Noftsger, who were both born in Clermont county, Ohio. Their marriage occurred there, but in 1839

they removed to Bond county, Illinois, where they resided until 1845, in which year they settled near Ottumwa, Wapello county, Iowa. Subsequently they removed to Marion county and in 1856 they came to this county, settling four miles southeast of Decatur City, where the father died at the age of fifty-two years. Later the mother returned to Marion county, but the last eight years of her life were spent with our subject in this county, her death occurring when she was seventy-six years old. The father was a Universalist in religious faith.

A. M. Noftsgger, who was born in Clermont county, Ohio, May 17, 1837, accompanied his parents on their various removals, attending school in both Illinois and Iowa. However, his educational opportunities were very limited, as his assistance was needed in carrying on the farm work, and he is largely a self-educated man. Following his marriage he rented land, which he operated for a year, after which he purchased a small farm. He worked unremittingly, lived economically and from time to time was able to add to his holdings, becoming at length an extensive landowner. He has given two hundred and forty acres to his children and still holds title to a good farm in Bloomington township, where he resides, although he has retired from active work.

In 1867 Mr. Noftsgger married Miss Catherine Wion, who was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, in 1839, a daughter of John and Nancy (Sines) Wion. The family resided in Indiana for a decade after leaving the Buckeye state, but in 1854 removed to Decatur county, Iowa, whence about 1870 the parents went to Davies county, Missouri, where the father died at the age of seventy years and the mother when seventy-five years old. The father was a farmer by occupation and met with a gratifying measure of success. Mrs. Noftsgger attended the public schools in Indiana and Iowa and grew to womanhood in this county. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Noftsgger have been born seven children: B. Henry, of Independence, Missouri; Thomas L., deceased; U. D., a carpenter of Oklahoma City; A. Franklin, a farmer of this county; Mrs. Jennie Johnson, of Oklahoma; and Charles E. and William E., both farmers of Decatur county. There are also eighteen grandchildren.

Mr. Noftsgger has voted an independent ticket for the past thirty-five years, and has taken an active part in political affairs. In many elections he has stumped the county and he is known as an effective campaign speaker. For almost five decades he has resided in Decatur county and in that time he has witnessed a remarkable transformation as pioneer conditions have given way before advancing civilization.



In his young manhood, during the Civil war, he spent five years upon the plains freighting and had many interesting experiences which were typical of frontier life. He has thoroughly identified his interests with those of Decatur county and has done much to secure the improvement of conditions. He was one of those who secured the first mail route in this congressional district and no worthy public movement has lacked his hearty cooperation.

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### JOHN P. MAXWELL, M. D.

Dr. John P. Maxwell devoted his time for over thirty years to the practice of his profession but for the past year has been cashier of the Farmers & Merchants Bank of Pleasanton. He was born in Eden township, Decatur county, on the 4th of October, 1852, a son of William K. and Jane A. (Cox) Maxwell. The father was born in Kentucky and the mother in Virginia. In 1850 they came to this county from Indiana and the father followed farming here for many years. He had served in the Mexican war and used his land warrant in acquiring land in Eden township. At the outbreak of the Civil war he again offered his services to his country and enlisted in Company I, Thirty-fourth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, of which he was made lieutenant. After serving for a year he was discharged on account of illness and died not long after returning home, passing away in September, 1863. His wife lived until November, 1906.

Dr. John P. Maxwell was reared in this county and after going to the public schools in Eden township became a student in the Leon high school, which he attended for two years. He then taught for some years, after which he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Keokuk, Iowa, from which he was graduated with the class of 1881. He located at Grand River, this county, where he practiced for two years, but then removed to Ellston, Iowa, where he remained for twelve years. At the end of that time he took up his residence in Clearfield, Iowa, where he followed his profession successfully for about twenty years. In 1914 he came to Pleasanton and assumed charge of the Farmers & Merchants Bank, a private institution, as cashier. On the 17th of February, 1915, William Woodard, of Decatur, the owner of the bank, passed away and Dr. Maxwell is now serving as administrator of the estate. He has proved his ability as a business man and financier and under his management



the affairs of the bank have been well directed. While actively engaged in the practice of medicine he won a creditable place in his profession and gained the confidence of his professional brethren and of the general public alike. He belongs to the Taylor County and Iowa State Medical Societies and to the American Medical Association, which indicates his progressive spirit and desire to keep abreast with the latest discoveries in the field of medical science.

Dr. Maxwell was married on the 8th of September, 1884, to Miss Fannie Woodard, a daughter of William and Matilda (Canterbury) Woodard, who were born respectively in Ohio and in Iowa. The father, who was a pioneer of this county, went to California in 1849 during the gold excitement and gained a start financially there. He returned to this county and for many years carried on agricultural pursuits. Upon giving up the work of the farm he removed to Decatur City, where he owned a bank. His wife died in December, 1914. To Dr. and Mrs. Maxwell was born one daughter, Madge F., who is bookkeeper in the bank of which her father is cashier. The wife and mother died in April, 1887, and her demise was sincerely mourned, not only by her immediate family but by her many friends, who held her in warm regard.

Dr. Maxwell is a republican and has at all times discharged the duties devolving upon him as a citizen. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Baptist church and fraternally he is identified with the Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He combines the qualities that make the successful physician with those that characterize the efficient business man and has carried to completion all that he has undertaken. Although he has only resided in Pleasanton for one year, he has made many friends here and is highly esteemed for his ability and integrity.

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### JAMES HAZLET.

Among the well known and highly respected farmers of Eden township is James Hazlet, who was born in Iroquois county, Illinois, December 10, 1871, of the marriage of Hugh D. and Margaret Ann (Graham) Hazlet. The father was born in Indiana on the 21st of January, 1822, of English and Scotch ancestry and the mother was a native of Ireland. In 1852 she emigrated to this country and on the 15th of December, 1857, was married at Oxford, Indiana. Hugh D. Hazlet was a farmer by occupation and owned land in Illinois, which he sold on his removal to Decatur county, Iowa. He purchased

three hundred and twenty acres of land in Eden township, this county, and was one of the most successful of the early residents of that township. He helped to organize the Church of Christ in his township and the congregation for some time met in the old schoolhouse, as they had no church edifice. Politically he belonged to the green-back party and later to the democratic party. He passed away on the 16th of January, 1887, but his wife is still living upon the homestead at the age of eighty years. She is yet active and in full possession of her mental faculties and is highly honored by all who know her. By her marriage she became the mother of five children, as follows: Sarah Ellen, who was born February 2, 1859, died April 9, 1860. William H., a farmer of Eden township, was born April 2, 1862, and married Miss Mary McCutcheon, by whom he has nine children, namely: Minnie, Ruey, Ruby, Mary, Fannie, William, Ida, Raymond and Florence. Ida, whose birth occurred on the 25th of July, 1867, married W. C. Kimport, of Des Moines. Ena, who was born October 10, 1869, is the wife of J. W. Walton, a farmer of Eden township, and they have three children, William Hugh and Mary and Margaret, twins. James of this review completes the family.

The last named attended school in district No. 1, Eden township, and as soon as he was old enough began to assist his father, thus gaining much profitable knowledge concerning agricultural work. He is still living upon the home farm with his mother and since his father's demise has had full control of the operation of the place, which comprises three hundred and twenty acres. He carries on general farming and stock-raising and sells many cattle and hogs annually to the shippers. He is both practical and progressive and his labors yield him a good financial return.

Mr. Hazlet is a democrat and has always taken much interest in public affairs, although he has never sought office. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Church of Christ of Eden township and his daily life testifies to the sincerity of his belief. He has won recognition as a capable and up-to-date farmer and all who have come in contact with him hold him in high esteem.

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### BENJAMIN DARST BARGER.

Benjamin Darst Barger, who passed away in 1912 at Le Roy, was for twelve years associated with the local bank and for five years preceding his demise was the owner of the institution. Before turn-

ing his attention to banking he was engaged extensively in the stock business and he was widely known throughout the county and esteemed wherever known. His birth occurred in Rockbridge county, Virginia, April 4, 1864. His father was educated for the Presbyterian ministry but never preached, devoting his time to agricultural pursuits instead. After removing from the east he first located in Missouri but soon afterward took up his abode upon a small farm in Lucas county, Iowa, northeast of Le Roy. He was also postmaster for a number of years and held that office at the time of his death. His wife is also deceased.

Benjamin D. Barger was eight years of age when he accompanied his parents to Missouri and was still a child when the family home was established in Lucas county, this state. He received his education in the public schools and was reared under the parental roof, assisting his father with the work of the homestead. Following his marriage he devoted his time to buying and shipping stock, particularly horses, and he became one of the most successful stockmen in the county. In 1890 he removed to Le Roy and in 1900 became cashier of the local bank. He proved very efficient in that position and under his direction the affairs of the institution were in a most prosperous condition. In 1907 he became the owner of the bank and his wife took up the duties of assistant cashier. They consulted each other in deciding questions relative to the management of the bank and worked together in the greatest harmony. Mr. Barger had an extensive acquaintance in the county and his ability and integrity were universally acknowledged. He passed away on the 13th of June, 1912, and Le Roy thus lost one of its leading citizens.

Mr. Barger was married in 1884 to Miss Julia Spridgen, whose birth occurred in Lucas county, Iowa, in 1861, and who is a daughter of William and Elizabeth Spridgen, natives of Lincolnshire, England. Her parents were married in that shire and remained there until 1851, when they emigrated to America, locating first in Ohio, whence they went to Indiana, where they resided until their removal to Lucas county, Iowa. In 1862 the father enlisted in the Union army and died while in the service, in a hospital at St. Louis. He is interred in the National cemetery of that city. His widow resided upon the farm until about four years before her demise, when she removed to Le Roy. She reached the advanced age of eighty-seven years, passing away on the 21st of April, 1913. She was a Methodist in her religious belief, as was her husband. To their union were born five children, three of whom grew to maturity, but only Mrs. Barger and a brother are now living. Mr. and Mrs. Barger became the parents of a son, Elbern, who died when about nine years of age.

Mr. Barger was a democrat but never desired public office as a reward for party loyalty. He belonged to the Masonic fraternity and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and had many friends in those organizations. In his early manhood he belonged to the Baptist church but he attended the Presbyterian church. He was a very generous man and could always be depended upon to do his share in furthering worthy public enterprises. He began his independent career with no capital and through his own well directed efforts and those of his wife, who is a good business woman, he accumulated a considerable fortune and was recognized as one of the well-to-do men of Decatur county. He possessed excellent judgment, could readily determine the value of a proposition and was aggressive and resourceful,—qualities that do much to insure success in any line of endeavor. Mrs. Barger owns a comfortable home and two productive farms which she leases, one comprising one hundred and sixty acres and the other one hundred acres. She and Mr. Barger lived together for twenty-eight years and their married life was one of unusually close companionship and of community of interests.

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### WILLIAM ASBACH.

William Asbach, who has been a resident of Decatur county for more than six decades, has since attaining his majority owned and operated the old home farm on sections 25 and 26, Burrell township, which has been in possession of the family since the spring of 1854. His birth occurred in Germany on the 5th of June, 1847, his parents being John and Veronica (Proff) Asbach, who were likewise natives of that country. In 1854 they crossed the Atlantic to the United States and made their way direct to Decatur county, Iowa, the father purchasing a tract of government land in Burrell township. There he was actively engaged in farming throughout the remainder of his life, passing away in 1882. His wife, who survived him for almost a decade, was called to her final rest in 1891.

William Asbach, a little lad of six years when he accompanied his parents on their emigration to the new world, was reared and educated in Burrell township, this county, and early became familiar with the duties and labors of the agriculturist as he assisted his father in the operation of the home farm. On attaining his majority he purchased the old home place, which he has operated continuously and successfully since, having improved the farm until it is now a valu-



able and productive property. It embraces one hundred and seventy and one-half acres on sections 25 and 26, Burrell township, and its owner is widely recognized as one of the enterprising, substantial and representative agriculturists of the community.

In August, 1880, Mr. Asbach was joined in wedlock to Miss Maria Mitchell, daughter of L. D. and Catherine (Meek) Mitchell, both of whom were natives of Ohio. The father was an agriculturist by occupation and after farming in Madison county, Iowa, for one year came to Decatur county in 1857, purchasing land in Eden township which he cultivated until 1870. In that year he disposed of the property and purchased a farm near that of Mr. Asbach in Burrell township, successfully operating the same until his death in May, 1901. The demise of his wife occurred in August, 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Asbach are the parents of six children, as follows: Catherine, who is now the wife of Fred Graham, of Sioux City, Iowa; William, who is a resident of St. Joseph, Missouri; John, living in Duluth, Minnesota; Ruth, who gave her hand in marriage to W. A. McEwen, of Sioux City; Dow, who has served in the capacity of township clerk since the 1st of January, 1915, and also operates his father's farm, enjoying an enviable reputation as a progressive young agriculturist and capable official; and Esther Myrle, at home.

Mr. Asbach exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the democratic party and has ably served as trustee of Burrell township for some time. Her religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Church of Christ, and the high principles of manhood which have ever governed his dealings with his fellowmen have won for him the unqualified respect, confidence and goodwill of all with whom he has come in contact.

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### CHARLES WALTER MOON.

Since 1890 Charles Walter Moon has operated an excellent farm on section 15, Fayette township, and previous to that year he resided just north of Lamoni. He was born in Laporte county, Indiana, November 19, 1866, a son of John Orrin and Maggie (Ross) Moon, who removed to Decatur county, Iowa, with their family about 1880. The mother is deceased but the father, who during his active life was an agriculturist, is still living at the age of seventy-six years and resides at Leon.



Charles W. Moon remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age but since then has farmed on his own account. He had no capital when he began but he now owns eighty acres of excellent land on section 15, Fayette township, which is finely improved. He is very progressive and was one of the first in his section to erect a silo. He carries on general farming and stock-raising and derives a good income from his labor.

On the 6th of May, 1891, Mr. Moon married Miss Sarah Allen, a native of Kewanee, Illinois, and a daughter of James Allen, who came to the United States from England, his native country, about 1887 and is still running a mill in Lamoni. To Mr. and Mrs. Moon have been born four children: Walter, a student in Graceland College at Lamoni; Willard and Orrin, both of whom are attending the Lamoni high school; and George Milton, who is a public-school student.

Mr. Moon is a republican and has served in a number of township and school offices, making a very creditable record as an official. His wife and three eldest sons are members of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints. He is justly held in high esteem by those who know him and his success in his chosen occupation is due to his energy and good management.

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### ALEXANDER HALE SMITH.

Alexander Hale Smith was born in the little town of Far West, Missouri, on June 2, 1838, inheriting right and title to strong character and pure, clean blood from two worthy streams of ancestry, his surname coming to him through sturdy, intelligent, respectable New England stock from the earliest years of the seventeenth century, when one Robert Smith set the first family root-tree in the historic state of Massachusetts, in the county of Essex, in what is now known as Topsfield, near the picturesque little Ipswich river. Running swiftly with the years, the family shared in the romance and history of the state and community, taking places of honor and trust as the need arose, whether fortune led them to battle, legislative hall, forum, pulpit or plow, counting the nation's glory their glory and her betterment their duty, until, in the course of generations, one Joseph Smith was born of Asael Smith and wife in the old family home in Topsfield. This man married one Lucy Mack, a woman born of the blood of heroes in the month of July, 1776, leading to the final



ALEXANDER HALE SMITH



development of a man born for a message and a mission when in the beautiful heights of the Green Mountains of Vermont their son Joseph was born. Moving westward, this boy met his work in the hills of Palmyra, New York, and delivered to the world the Book of Mormon and founded by revelation the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

By reason of his translation and presentation of the Book of Mormon to the world, he was known to them as the Mormon Prophet. This man joined his life fortune to Miss Emma Hale of Harmony, Pennsylvania, a woman coming through a line of refined, "well-to-do" pioneers of excellent and strong character and of good repute. To this union came the subject of our sketch, Alexander H. Smith, the fifth son and sixth child. The fortunes of the church had led the parents, Joseph and Emma (Hale) Smith, onto the western frontier and into the acquaintance of General Alexander W. Doniphan, with whom Joseph Smith was counseling in the matters of church property and with whom he was studying law. This intimacy being ripe at the time of his birth, the little son born in Missouri was named for the hero of Sacramento, Alexander, the mother's name, Hale, following it in his signature and record.

The persecution of the church and troubles arising therefrom threw the father, with many other of his brethren, in a Missouri jail while this child was yet an infant. The mother, with difficulty and much suffering, made her way before the edict of evacuation, issued by Governor Boggs to the "Mormons," across the state to the shores of the Mississippi. This was in February of 1839. The river, wide and dreary neath the grey sky, lay frozen and chill. With the small son, Frederick, and baby, Alexander, in her arms and little son, Joseph, and adopted daughter, Julia, clinging to her dress, Mrs. Smith crossed the river on foot and found protection from mobs and menacing foes on the friendly shores of Illinois, in Quincy, at the home of Mr. Cleveland. Here her husband found her and together they removed to Commerce, Illinois, afterward and ever since known as Nauvoo. Buying an old but strong and comfortable blockhouse from Hugh White, this they made their home and here come first the events of memory to Alexander.

The Church rallied to this point and grew to a people of thousands. When the man was but a child of six years there were imprinted upon his mind the horrors attending the killing of his father and uncle by a mob in Carthage. Blurred and terrorized into more or less confusion, the scenes attending those months were like a hideous dream to the man in after years. Swiftly there came dissension

within the circle of his acquaintance that he felt in a childish way, and then the troubled time of war and finally the evacuation of Nauvoo. His mother's brave and singularly well possessed spirit shielded him from many things then as well as through his boyhood, which was spent at Nauvoo, either in the "Mansion," a hotel owned and conducted by his mother, or at the Homestead, the old blockhouse added to and improved upon and occupied at times by the family, or maybe on the family farm a few miles east of Nauvoo. He grew to manhood, received his education, formed his friendships and in 1861 was married in Nauvoo to Miss Elizabeth A. Kendall, daughter of John and Elizabeth Kendall. She was born near Liverpool, England, but was reared in and near Nauvoo, being left an orphan when but eight years of age.

Mr. Smith allied himself with no religious sect until after his brother Joseph took his place as the head of the remnant who remained true to the original faith and doctrine of the church and refused to follow Brigham Young and drink of the cup of his iniquitous doctrines. With this little band of followers who invited his brother to take his legitimate place as their earthly head, he joined his powers for good and became a missionary for the Reorganized Church.

In company with William Anderson and James Gillen he made the trip across the plains of North America to California with a small span of mules, one wagon and a riding pony. This journey was beset with many perils and unguessed hardships, attended as it was by dangers from wild men and wild beasts and the intrigues and hatred of the western church. This mission was the first one of many to the western lands.

His home was in Nauvoo until 1876 with the exception of two years spent at Plano, Illinois. In the spring of 1876 he removed to Andover, Missouri, near the Iowa line on the south, the beautiful country in and surrounding Decatur county having attracted his eye. He lived on this farm for five years, removing from thence to Independence, Missouri, stopping en route for one year at Stewartsville, Missouri, but keeping his farm across the Iowa line. In 1890 he bought his home in Lamoni, Decatur county, Iowa, and there spent the remainder of his life, when not traveling in the interests of his church work, in which connection he traveled and preached from the Atlantic to the Pacific, in the southern states and to the Great Lakes and Hawaii and the Society Islands, holding the office of an apostle, for many years an active member of that quorum, later counselor in the presidency and at last president of the Order



of Evangelists and Patriarchs. He died in the Mansion, his own property, while on a hurried visit to the old town of Nauvoo, on the evening of August 12, 1909, after an illness of three nights and three days.

Mr. Smith was a man of keen, sensitive, impulsive nature; big-hearted, big-bodied, moved quickly to action, to tears or to laughter; throwing himself into any undertaking with zeal and devotion. He was a forceful, eloquent speaker, moving sometimes in poetic language and similes when under the fervor of deep feeling. With friends he was jovial and easily approached and affectionate, although rigid in his ideas of morals and ethics. He moved with quick, springing step and erect figure and always with dignified bearing. Politically he claimed the faith of "an old-time Lincoln republican" and lived the life of a patriot.

He loved the wide outdoors, land and water and sky, and delighted in athletic sports, holding a record in his younger days as one of the best skaters and one of the two surest shots in the community. Of the nine children born to him, one daughter, Mrs. Grace Madison, died and is buried in San Bernardino, California, and one son, Don A., is buried at Lamoni. The second daughter, Mrs. Ina I. Wright, lives at Avalon, New South Wales, Australia, and Mrs. Coral Horner near Davis City, Iowa. Mrs. Emma Kennedy and the youngest sons, Joseph G. and Arthur M., reside at Independence, Missouri, while the oldest children, Fred A. and Mrs. Heman C. Smith, are residents of Lamoni, where the widow still lives in their home on the south side.

Mr. Smith was buried in Rose Hill at Lamoni, Iowa, and left the record of a busy, honest, progressive citizen, without fear and true in very truth to the high principles for which he always stood defender and promulgator.

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### C. E. CREVELING.

Four hundred and fifty-three acres of excellent land in this county pays tribute to its owner, C. E. Creveling, who is recognized as a most successful farmer and stock-raiser. He was born upon his home farm on section 6, New Buda township, August 28, 1860, and is a son of Clemuel and Eliza Creveling. The father was born in Pennsylvania of English, German and Scotch ancestry and in 1854 emigrated west, locating in Washington county, Iowa. In

1856 he came to Decatur county and entered and purchased land in New Buda and Fayette townships and devoted the remainder of his life to the operation of his farm, passing away in 1886. His wife, who was also born in Pennsylvania, came of Pennsylvania-Dutch stock. Her demise occurred on the old home place in 1895 while she was making her home with our subject.

C. E. Creveling was reared under the parental roof and received a good common-school education. Following his father's demise he had charge of the settling of the estate and purchased the old home place of one hundred and sixty acres. The father owned in all five hundred acres of land. Mr. Creveling of this review has since added to his original purchase and now owns and operates four hundred and fifty-three acres of fine land, a quarter section thereof lying in Fayette township, ninety-eight in Burrell and one hundred and ninety-five in New Buda township. On the 1st of April, 1893, the family residence on the old home place burned down but Mr. Creveling at once rebuilt on the same foundation, erecting a modern country home. He carries on both farming and stock-raising and for many years gave much attention to breeding full blooded Duroc Jersey hogs. He still feeds many cattle and hogs annually and derives a handsome profit from their sale.

On the 6th of August, 1894, the marriage of Mr. Creveling and Miss Johanna Dunbar was solemnized. Her father, Benjamin Dunbar, who was a native of Indiana, followed agricultural pursuits and came to Iowa previous to the Civil war. He entered land in Decatur county and became a very extensive landowner. His wife, who was in her maidenhood Miss Elizabeth Johnson, was born in this state. To Mr. and Mrs. Creveling have been born eight children, namely: Perry Orville, whose birth occurred June 17, 1895, and who is assisting his father with the farm work; Venus Cecil, who was born December 8, 1896; Raymond, whose natal day was the 24th of March, 1898; Wallace, born August 17, 1900; Harold, born January 28, 1902; Myrle, who was born April 2, 1903; Mary, whose birth occurred June 25, 1905; and Howard Taft, born July 25, 1909.

Mr. Creveling is independent in politics, voting for the man rather than the party. Fraternally he belongs to the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias lodges of Lamoni and has many friends both within and without those organizations. He comes of a family noted for the large size of its men, his paternal grandfather, Alexander Creveling, weighing three hundred and forty pounds and his father two hundred and forty. He himself is a man of fine physique, which is matched by a keen and vigorous mind and strong character. He

has gained more than usual success as a farmer and stock-raiser but has not confined his attention to the pursuit of material prosperity but, on the other hand, has at all times been ready to cooperate in movements seeking the moral development of his community.

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### THOMAS A. CHURCHILL.

Thomas A. Churchill is an extensive stock-raiser and dealer and owns and operates a splendid farm of five hundred and eighty-three acres on sections 28 and 29, Garden Grove township. His birth occurred near Springfield, in Sangamon county, Illinois, in 1856, and he is a son of Joel and Lucretia (Bondurant) Churchill, both natives of Kentucky, although descended from New England stock. The ancestry in the Churchill line is traced back to England. The Bondurants were originally French Huguenots but about 1687, following the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, emigrated to Virginia. When a boy, Joel Churchill accompanied his parents to Sangamon county, Illinois, and there his marriage occurred. He was a farmer and was well known and highly respected in his community. In 1865 he removed with his family to Douglas county, Kansas, settling between Lawrence and Ottawa. In the spring of 1874 they returned to Illinois and became residents of Piatt county. Mr. Churchill's political allegiance was given to the republican party and he and his wife were devoted members of the Christian church. Both passed away in Piatt county, his demise occurring in the spring of 1902 when he was seventy-six years of age, and that of his wife in January, 1896, when she was seventy years old. To their union were born six sons and five daughters, of whom our subject is the sixth in order of birth, and all of whom are living, residing in Illinois, Iowa and Missouri.

Thomas A. Churchill was reared in Illinois and Kansas and received his education in the public schools. He began his independent career in Illinois and although he had no capital, he was energetic and determined and soon began to prosper financially. Later he removed to Wayne county, Iowa, where he farmed for five years, and on the 18th of November, 1908, he removed to Garden Grove, Decatur county. He remained there until October 18, 1909, when he settled upon his present farm of five hundred and eighty-three acres on sections 28 and 29, Garden Grove township. His property is not only extensive, but is well improved, and he is meeting with marked success as a raiser of high grade hogs and cattle.

Mr. Churchill was married in Kansas to Miss Mary Browning, a native of Indiana, who accompanied her parents to the Sunflower state in 1868. Her father was a farmer and blacksmith and took considerable interest in public affairs, serving at one time as assessor of Franklin county, Kansas. His wife passed away in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church and he is also deceased, both dying in Kansas. They were the parents of four daughters and three sons, of whom two have passed away. To Mr. and Mrs. Churchill have been born six children, the eldest of whom died in infancy. Olive L. graduated from a high school in Illinois and later attended Drake University. She is now teaching in the Des Moines public schools. Vera Pearl is also a high-school graduate and has taught school, although she is now at home. Martha Elizabeth is at home. Clifton Bondurant, who operates part of the home farm, married Miss Louise Gehlhaar, and they have a daughter, Lorene. Thomas Arthur is also at home.

Mr. Churchill is a republican and is now serving as a member of the Garden Grove township board of trustees. Fraternally he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and to the Royal Neighbors, and his wife is likewise a member of the latter order. Their daughter Pearl is a member of the P. E. O. Sisterhood. Mr. Churchill has made many improvements upon his farm since it came into his possession and has but recently erected a large barn, which replaces one destroyed by fire a year ago, the building with its contents, including five horses, being an entire loss. Although he began his career empty handed, he has accumulated more than a competence, and his success is a source of justifiable pride to him. He has also gained the sincere respect and esteem of all who know him, for his business methods have at all times been open and honorable, and he has manifested a praiseworthy consideration for the rights of others.

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### ALBERT L. ACKERLEY.

Albert L. Ackerley, one of the most prominent figures in the financial circles of Decatur county, is president of the Exchange National Bank of Leon and president of the First National Bank of Grand River, this county. His birth occurred in Fayette township on the 8th of March, 1872, and he is a son of Samuel and Charlotte (West) Ackerley, both natives of England, the former born in Manchester and the latter near London. As a young man the father emi-



grated to America and was married in Philadelphia to Miss West, who had crossed the ocean to the United States on the same ship. He followed railroading for some time, being in the freight department of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway, but after coming to Decatur county in 1871 he gave his attention to farming one hundred and twenty acres of land in Fayette township, which he owned, until he removed to Lamoni. He passed away there when seventy-five years of age, but his widow is still living at the age of eighty-three years and makes her home with our subject at Leon. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Ackerley were the parents of the following children aside from our subject: J. E., of Grand River, this county; E. W., of Kidder, Missouri; Mrs. John Herold, of Shenandoah, Iowa; and Mrs. J. W. Peterson, of Alberta, Canada.

Albert L. Ackerley was reared upon the home farm in Fayette township and attended the common schools in the acquirement of an education. When but seventeen years of age he started out on his own account and for two years farmed and worked at the printing trade. He then turned his attention to real estate and in 1895 started a private bank at Beaconsfield, Ringgold county, which he sold out four years later, purchasing the bank at Grand River. In 1900 he organized the State Savings Bank, which has now become the First National Bank of Grand River, and since 1913 he has served as president of that institution. In September, 1908, he and E. G. Monroe, then county treasurer, purchased a controlling interest in the Exchange National Bank of Leon. Mr. Ackerley was for some time treasurer of the institution, was later made vice president and for the past three years has served as president, while Mr. Monroe has been cashier. Mr. Ackerley understands the banking business thoroughly both as to routine work and as to the great principles of finance that underlie successful banking and the Exchange National Bank of Leon and the First National Bank of Grand River have prospered to a marked degree since he has directed their policies. He is also interested in a bank at Keokuk and in connection with W. H. Shields laid out an addition to that city. They have handled a number of large tracts of land and are excellent real-estate men.

On his twenty-first birthday Mr. Ackerley was united in marriage at Lamoni to Miss Lois Walker, who was born in Nevada but was taken by her parents to Illinois when but two years of age, while the following year the family located in Decatur county, Iowa, where she grew to womanhood. She is a graduate of the Lamoni high school and was at one time assistant postmaster of that place. Her father, who was a well known farmer, passed away a number of years ago,



but her mother, Mrs. M. Walker, is still residing in Lamoni. She has one sister, a widow, Mrs. Frances Davis, who is teaching in the Lamoni high school. Mr. and Mrs. Ackerley have four children: Delos, twenty-one years of age, who is now a sophomore in the State University of Iowa at Iowa City; Leland G., eighteen years of age, who is a freshman in that institution; Lois Alberta, who is a student in the Leon high school; and Homer M., attending the common schools.

Mr. Ackerley is a republican and is not only stalwart in his support of the party at the polls, but is also an energetic worker in the ranks. At one time he was his party's candidate for county treasurer. Fraternally he holds membership in the Masonic order. He possesses much astuteness and is able to readily determine the value of a proposition, which faculty has been of great value to him in his work as a banker, as it has enabled him to at once promote the legitimate business expansion of his community and at the same time to safeguard the interests of the depositors and stockholders in the banks with which he is connected in an official capacity. He is respected not only for his ability but also for his unquestioned integrity and uprightness.

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### WILLIAM A. FRANCE.

The France Lumber Company of Lamoni deals extensively in lumber, building materials and coal and is the successor to F. W. Newcomb, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work. The present firm includes William A. France and his son, Joseph E. France. The former was born at Kewanee, Henry county, Illinois, of the marriage of Thomas and Alice (Carter) France, who were natives of Lancashire, England, and were married there. In 1859 they came to the United States and for a year resided in Omaha, Nebraska. They then went to Illinois, where they remained until 1886, when they removed to Decatur county, Iowa. The father was engaged in coal mining and in business pursuits in Illinois but after his removal to Decatur county farmed until his demise, which occurred in 1901, when he was sixty-seven years of age. His wife is still residing in Lamoni at the age of eighty years. His religious faith was that of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints. To their union were born five children, those aside from William A. France being: Charles, of Lamoni, who is president of the local telephone company;

Mrs. J. H. Stanley, of Andover; and Mrs. Andy Turnbull and Mrs. A. M. Chase, both of Lamoni.

William A. France was reared in Illinois, remaining there until he was about twenty-two years of age, when he accompanied his parents to Decatur county. He gave his attention to farming on land southeast of Lamoni and was also engaged in the stock business, continuing active in those lines until he removed to Lamoni in 1901. In 1910 he purchased the lumber business which he is still conducting. His son, Joseph E. France, is in partnership with him, the firm name being the France Lumber Company. They handle lumber, building materials and coal and as there has never been any doubt of their integrity they enjoy a large and lucrative trade. Mr. France of this review also owns a tract of twenty acres in Lamoni, where his residence is situated, and he is recognized as one of the successful business men of this city.

Mr. France was married in Illinois to Miss Mary A. Atkinson, a native of Henry county, that state, and a daughter of Abram and Mary A. Atkinson, who were born in England. The father was a miller and both he and his wife have passed to their reward. To Mr. and Mrs. France have been born four children: Joseph E., who is in partnership with his father; Elizabeth, who is attending the State University of Iowa at Iowa City; Thomas W., who graduated from the local high school with the class of 1915; and David W., in school.

Mr. France is a democrat in his political views but does not consider himself irrevocably bound by the decisions of party leaders, manifesting independence in the exercise of his right of franchise. He has served as town and school treasurer and has discharged his official duties with credit to himself. He is a member of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints and takes a great interest in everything pertaining to the work of that organization. He is an excellent business man and a valued citizen as he is able, upright and public spirited.

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### WILLIAM McINTOSH.

William McIntosh, a retired farmer living in Davis City; was born in Sullivan county, Indiana, December 18, 1843, a son of John and Elizabeth (Wamy) McIntosh, both natives of Tennessee and descended respectively from Scotch-Irish and German ancestry. Their marriage occurred in Indiana, where the father followed agricultural pursuits for a number of years, but in 1855 he removed with

his family to Mercer county, Missouri, and there purchased land. In 1869 he sold that farm and came to Decatur county, Iowa, locating in Hamilton township. He passed away upon his farm in that township, March 8, 1877, and was survived for several years by his widow. He served during the Civil war in Company B, Fifth Kansas Volunteer Cavalry, and held the rank of first lieutenant.

William McIntosh attended the public schools in Indiana and after removing to Missouri worked as a farm hand. At the outbreak of the Civil war he was employed by a man in Davis county, Missouri, and when a local company of Confederate volunteers was organized by Captain David Inyard, Mr. McIntosh's employer offered him his best horse, saddle and bridle if he would enlist in the southern army. He told him many falsehoods about the "Yankees," as he called the northern men, but our subject said he would wait until he heard from home before enlisting. He wrote to his father, who upon receiving the letter went in person to talk the matter over with him and told him that he had enlisted in the northern army. Mr. McIntosh says: "He and friends at home convinced me that the only right thing to do was to fight for the preservation of the Union and I did and fought hard." He enlisted at Princeton, Missouri, August 13, 1862, in the Union army and took part in fifteen battles, including those at Decatur, Georgia, and New Hope church, both of which were hotly contested, and he also participated in the sieges of Vicksburg and Jackson, Mississippi, and Atlanta and Savannah, Georgia, going with Sherman on his march to the sea. Although he saw a great deal of hard fighting and was often where the fire was the hottest he was never wounded. He participated in the Grand Review at Washington and was honorably discharged in that city on the 13th of June, 1865.

After returning from the war Mr. McIntosh purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Mercer county, Missouri, which he farmed until January, 1882, when he sold out and removed to New Buda township, Decatur county, where he purchased one hundred and eighty-two acres. For eleven years he devoted his energies to the cultivation of that tract and won a gratifying measure of success as a farmer and stock-raiser. On the 3d of September, 1893, he sold his farm and removed to Davis City, where he has since resided. During his active life he gained a competence which now enables him to live retired in the enjoyment of the comforts of life.

On the 29th of October, 1865, occurred the marriage of Mr. McIntosh and Miss Polly Griffin, a daughter of James and Rebecca (Dykes) Griffin, the former born in North Carolina, of Irish ances-

try. The mother's birth occurred in Tennessee and her parents were natives of Ireland. Both Mr. and Mrs. Griffin passed away in Missouri. To Mr. and Mrs. McIntosh have been born eight children. Elizabeth Rebecca married John W. Poush, an auto dealer of Davis City, and they have two children, Floyd and Emerson. John Andrew, who is a clothing merchant of Leon, married Della Cherrington and they have two children, Francis Marion and Helen Elizabeth. Martha died when twenty-seven years of age. James Franklin, who is now living in Waltham, Massachusetts, served in the Spanish-American war under Colonel Loper, in the Fifty-first Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He married Miss Dorothy Bernard. Lorinda married Fred Ross, a piano tuner of Duluth, Minnesota, and they have a son, William. Stella is the wife of William Bullington, a ranchman of Gooding, Idaho, by whom she has a daughter, Louise. Margaret married John Asbach, a piano tuner of Duluth, Minnesota. Clara, the youngest member of the family, is forelady in a music house in Denver, Colorado.

Mr. McIntosh is a republican and for a quarter of a century has served as township constable, the length of his retention in office proving the ability with which he has discharged his duties. For many years he has belonged to the Grand Army post of Davis City and he derives much pleasure from his association with others who went to the defense of the Union in the time of its peril.

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### GUY H. WILLIAMS.

Guy H. Williams, a prosperous farmer of Richland township, was born in Johnson county, Iowa, on the 9th of March, 1872. His father, Richard L. Williams, was a native of Wales, born September 12, 1825. In 1844, when a young man of nineteen years, he located in Syracuse, New York. He was without resources and turned his hand to whatever honest employment could be found. In 1857 he entered land in Fremont township, Johnson county, Iowa, fourteen miles south of Iowa City. He had saved quite a good sum of money and at once began the improvement of his farm. He followed general farming and stock-raising and became in time the owner of two hundred and eighty acres in Johnson county and two hundred and forty acres in Richland township, Decatur county. He was a republican and was honored by election to a number of township offices. His religious faith was that of the Methodist



Episcopal church. He retired from his farm in Johnson county about 1895 and died on the 16th of August, 1910, when eighty-four years of age. He was married in New York state on the 9th of October, 1855, to Miss Mary Jane Evans, who was a native of Madison county, New York, born June 22, 1831, and a daughter of John Evans, native of Wales. Mrs. Williams passed away in Iowa on the 20th of May, 1904. She was the mother of five children: Mabel, who died in 1875 when nineteen years of age; J. L., who was an inventor, and died when twenty-two years of age; Maud, who was born May 3, 1866, and is now the wife of John Davis, a real-estate dealer of Mount Ayr; Jessie, who was born in 1869, and married A. W. Ricker, of New York city, a magazine writer; and Guy H.

The last named was reared upon the homestead and after completing the common-school course attended the high school at Lone Tree. He was early trained to agricultural work and was an efficient farmer by the time that he reached mature years. He cultivated land in Johnson county until 1901, when he removed to two hundred and forty acres in Richland township belonging to his father. The farm is now owned by our subject and his sister, Mrs. Ricker. Mr. Williams takes rank with the most progressive farmers of his township and everything about his place is kept in excellent condition. He follows general farming and stock-raising and his labors yield him a handsome annual income.

Mr. Williams was married in December, 1905, to Miss Sarilda Fullerton, who was born in Richland township on the 21st of March, 1880, and is a daughter of Thomas and Armilda Jane (Shipp) Fullerton, an account of whose lives appears elsewhere in this work.

Mr. Williams is a supporter of the republican party but is not a pronounced partisan, placing the public welfare above mere party success. His wife belongs to the Christian church. Both cooperate with movements seeking the advancement of their community and have the unqualified respect of all who know them.

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### JOHN M. CHASTAIN, SR.

John M. Chastain, Sr., was for many years an energetic and successful farmer of this county but is now living retired in Leon in the enjoyment of a well earned rest. His birth occurred in Putnam county, Indiana, February 23, 1843, and he is a son of Levi and Louisa (Martin) Chastain, both natives of Kentucky. The father



farmed in the Hoosier state and also operated a sawmill for several years. He took up his residence there in pioneer days and continued to live there until 1855, when he removed with his family to Decatur county, Iowa. At that time there were only about twenty houses in Leon and much of the land in the county was unbroken and still in the hands of the government. He had entered a quarter section in Eden township two years prior to his removal but on taking up his residence here sold one-half of that one hundred and sixty acres and purchased a quarter section closer to Leon, all of which he had under cultivation in a comparatively short time although but thirty acres were broken when the place came into his possession. In a log cabin which stood upon the farm the first court of the county was held. After farming for a number of years Mr. Chastain removed to Leon, where he passed away on the 20th of March, 1894. He had survived his wife since March 23, 1888. There were five children in the family, namely, Lucy A., L. R., Mary E., Louise A. and John M.

The last named was reared and educated in Indiana and in this county and remained at home with his parents until he was twenty-nine years of age. He then purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Eden township, which he improved and operated until 1881. He then removed to Leon and erected a good residence upon a half block of ground which he had purchased. He took up his abode in the city in order that his son might have the advantages of the excellent public schools but continued to own his farm and gave considerable personal attention to its operation. Subsequently he removed to Des Moines, Iowa, where he resided for four years while his son completed his education. At the end of that time our subject returned to his farm in this county, which he operated for six years, and then again took up his residence in Leon, where he has since resided in the enjoyment of well earned rest. At one time he owned a whole block of city property but has now sold half of it.

Mr. Chastain was married on the 26th of December, 1872, to Miss Sarah A. Albaugh, a daughter of John and Mary E. (Layton) Albaugh, natives of Kentucky. The father became a resident of Indiana at an early day in the history of that state and operated a sawmill there until 1856, when he came to Decatur county, Iowa, and purchased land in Eden township adjoining the farm of our subject's father. He improved and cultivated the land until 1882, when he retired from active life and removed to Leon, where he passed away in March, 1908. The demise of his wife occurred in August, 1882. They were the parents of two children: Mrs. Chastain; and William A., who also lives in Leon. To Mr. and Mrs.

Chastain were born two children: Minnie, who died November 19, 1880; and Frank E., who is operating the farm in Eden township which belongs to his father and which was formerly the property of his maternal grandfather. He married Miss Maude Bruner and they have two children: Paul J., eleven years of age; and Harold, who is four years old.

Mr. Chastain is an adherent of the prohibiton party and has taken an active part in local affairs of government. He has served as trustee and as road supervisor of Eden township and he has also been street commissioner of Leon. His religious faith is that of the Christian church and during his life he has systematically followed the highest standards of conduct.

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### EDWARD C. HOLLISTER.

Edward C. Hollister, who is sole owner of the Pleasanton Lumber Company, was born near Decorah, Iowa, January 31, 1858, a son of Elisha and Mary A. (Edwards) Hollister, both natives of Connecticut. The father, who was by occupation a farmer, removed to Winneshiek county, Iowa, in 1856 and purchased land north of Decorah, on which the famous Indian chief, Winneshiek, was buried. At that time there were no railroads in that section of Iowa and the conditions of life were those of the western frontier. Mr. Hollister improved his farm and aided in the development of his county along other lines as well. After residing there for a number of years he sold out and went to Jones county, Iowa, buying land in Greenfield township. Later he sold that place also and removed to Kansas, where he became the owner of four hundred acres of land, which he operated until he retired from active life and removed to Sabetha, that state, where he died in February, 1898. He had survived his wife for almost twenty years, her demise occurring June 16, 1878.

Edward C. Hollister received his education in the public schools of Mechanicsville, Iowa, and remained with his father until he was twenty-three years of age. He then farmed on his own account for two years in Jones county, after which he went to Cherokee county and cultivated rented land for two years. He next removed to Kansas, where he purchased a quarter section adjoining his father's farm and devoted his time to the cultivation and improvement of his land for twelve years. At the end of that time he traded that farm for two hundred and thirty-five acres in Hamilton township, this county,

which he cultivated until 1908. He then rented the place and removed to Pleasanton, buying the lumber business known as the Pleasanton Lumber Company. He has since conducted that business and has met with gratifying success.

Mr. Hollister was married on the 28th of November, 1882, to Miss Martha A. Peaco, a daughter of James and Eliza (Keller) Peaco, natives of Virginia. Her father was the proprietor of a foundry in Virginia and during the Civil war served in the Confederate army. Both he and his wife passed away in their native state. Mr. and Mrs. Hollister have three children: Emmett, thirty-one years of age, who resides in St. Joseph, Missouri; Belva, twenty-five years old, the wife of J. Emmett Leeper, Jr., a resident of North Dakota; and Frank, who is twenty-three years of age and is operating the farm belonging to our subject.

Mr. Hollister is a democrat and has taken an active part in local political affairs. For two terms he served as township clerk, was at one time mayor of Pleasanton and is at present a member of the town council. His religious faith is that of the Methodist church and fraternally he is connected with the Masons, the Modern Woodmen and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He is energetic, possesses sound judgment and observes the highest business ethics, and the success which he has gained as proprietor of the Pleasanton Lumber Company is well deserved.

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### LATTA H. HAGEN.

Latta H. Hagen, who is a well known farmer of Burrell township, was born in that township, June 7, 1860, a son of John and Eve (Asbach) Hagen, both natives of Germany, who upon emigrating to the United States, settled in Decatur county, Iowa. The father served in the Austrian war and was taken prisoner and held for a long time. Eventually he made his escape with some comrades and soon afterward came to the United States. He purchased land in Burrell township, this county, and devoted the remainder of his life to agricultural pursuits. He passed away in 1881 and his wife died in 1865.

Latta H. Hagen was reared and educated in this county and remained at home, farming in partnership with his father until the latter's demise. The estate was then divided and our subject received one hundred acres for his share. He operated his farm until 1889,

when he sold it and purchased eighty acres on section 34, Burrell township, which he has since improved. He also owns one hundred and sixty acres which he rents to others and derives a gratifying income from his land.

Mr. Hagen was married on the 30th of January, 1886, to Miss Emma Pruyn, a daughter of Theodore and Marietta (Pickle) Pruyn, natives of New York and Illinois respectively. The father removed to Wisconsin in early manhood and farmed there until 1882, when he came with his family to Decatur county, Iowa, and purchased land in New Buda township which he operated until his demise in September, 1904. His widow is still living at Lemoni. Mr. and Mrs. Hagen have five children: Dora, at home; Roscoe, a rural mail carrier residing in Davis City; and Anna, Ernest and Gilbert, all at home.

Mr. Hagen is a republican and is staunch in his support of the candidates and measures of that party. He is identified with the local lodge of Modern Woodmen of America and his church membership is held in the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints. He is known as a man of sterling worth, as a good citizen and as a successful agriculturist and has many warm friends.

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### ROBERT C. BOLON.

Robert C. Bolon is one of the progressive farmers and stock-raisers of New Buda township and his place on section 2 is well improved. He also conducts a jewelry repair shop at his residence and as he is a skilled workman in that line enjoys a good trade. His birth occurred near Spring Valley in Hamilton township, May 2, 1860, and he is a son of James F. and Elizabeth (Clark) Bolon. The father was born in Ohio, of Irish stock, and was by trade a carpenter and plasterer. A more detailed account of his life is given elsewhere in this volume.

Robert C. Bolon attended the district schools, the Lineville (Ia.) high school and the law school of Drake University, from which institution he was graduated in 1886. He located in Des Moines, where he spent three years learning the jeweler's trade, after which he became the owner of a jewelry store on East Fifth street, that city, which he conducted for two years. At the end of that time he removed to Lineville, Wayne county, Iowa, and there opened a jewelry store which he owned for two years. At the end of that time he purchased a small farm of sixty-eight acres northeast of Lineville and for ten years devoted his time and energies to the culti-



vation of his land. He then sold and removed to Davis City, Decatur county, buying land in New Buda township. Later he entered into partnership with his father, assisting the latter in the operation of a section of fine land. Father and son carried on agricultural pursuits together until the demise of the former, when our subject received one hundred acres as his share of the estate. He removed to his farm, which is situated on section 2, New Buda township, and is still living there. He breeds and raises Hereford cattle of fine grade and Poland China hogs, selling his stock to the shipper. He also carries on general farming with the help of his sons and receives a gratifying income from his labors. He still conducts a jewelry repair shop and receives the greater part of the business in that line in his section.

On the 7th of May, 1894, Mr. Bolon married Miss Mary E. Logan, of Des Moines, a daughter of Michael and Mary E. (Scott) Logan, both natives of Ireland, who passed their entire lives in that country. The father carried on farming and general stock-raising in County Galway. His demise occurred in 1913 and that of his wife in 1914. Mrs. Bolon was born in County Galway, November 17, 1868, and was reared there until she reached the age of thirteen years. She then came to the United States with her uncle, James Mullan, who located near Webster City, Iowa. At the time of her marriage she was living in Des Moines. During the thirteen year interval between her arrival in America and her marriage she had through her own efforts accumulated fifteen hundred dollars, which she invested in the farm. Mr. and Mrs. Bolon are the parents of nine children, as follows: James Michael, born February 12, 1895, was graduated from the Davis City high school and also from the State Agricultural College at Ames with the class of 1915, taking first honors. On the 8th of September, 1914, he was united in marriage to Miss Henrietta Fowler. Charles Logan, born June 12, 1896, is attending the Davis City high school. He assists his father with the work of the farm and takes a great interest in agricultural pursuits. In 1914 he won a trip to the Omaha stock show by raising ninety-three bushels of corn on an acre of land, which was the third best yield out of twenty-three acres entered. The prize was given by the State Agricultural College at Ames. Joseph, who was born August 31, 1897, died in infancy. Dewey A., who was born August 15, 1898, Elizabeth, whose birth occurred February 7, 1901, Margaret, born November 25, 1902, Grace Aletha, born June 27, 1904, Nellie, born May 4, 1905, and Hattie, born January 11, 1908, are all attending the Davis City schools.



Mr. Bolon is an independent republican, voting for the man rather than the party when he deems it to the best interests of good government to do so. Both he and his wife belong to the Roman Catholic church of Des Moines. He is not only progressive and well-to-do but he is personally popular, his genial spirit and consideration for others enabling him to make and retain friends readily.

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### JOHN THOMAS.

John Thomas, who has for many years been actively engaged in agricultural pursuits in Morgan township, has disposed of part of his land but still operates thirty acres although he has reached the age of seventy-eight years. He was born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, in September, 1837, of the marriage of Samuel and Hannah (Hollinger) Thomas, both of whom were natives of Columbiana county, Ohio. The father, who operated a woolen mill in the Buckeye state, continued to engage in manufacturing until the spring of 1857, when he came to Decatur county with his family. He purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Morgan township, on which he resided until his demise, which occurred in September, 1896, when he was eighty-four years of age. His wife preceded him in death twelve years.

John Thomas was reared under the parental roof and was educated in Ohio. When twenty years of age he accompanied his parents to this county and did the greater part of the farm work for many years. However, he resided in and near Decatur City for fourteen years. He carried on agricultural pursuits in that locality for a time and then engaged in merchandising but as he did not find that profitable soon sold out and turned his attention to the carpenter's trade. Eventually he returned to the old homestead and two years after his father's demise purchased it. He has since given his time to the development of his farm and has made all of the improvements on the place. He has now disposed of all of his land save thirty acres, which he still operates, although he has reached an age when many men either by choice or necessity abandon all active work. His place is on section 18, Morgan township, is well improved and has an abundance of good fruit. He has long been numbered among the capable farmers of his locality.

Mr. Thomas was married to Miss Eliza J. Gardner in October, 1856. She is a daughter of Rudolph and Ann (John) Gardner, natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania respectively, both of whom are

deceased, the father's demise occurring in Ohio in 1852, when he was but forty-four years of age, and the mother passing away at the home of our subject in 1910, when she had reached the venerable age of ninety-four. Mr. Gardner was a farmer and stonemason by occupation. To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas have been born three children: Ada F., the wife of William Toovy, a resident of Canada; Clarence Emmett, who is also living in the Dominion; and Arlie, who died in infancy.

Mr. Thomas is a republican and for years served on the school board, doing much to further the cause of the public schools in that time. He was elected justice of the peace but would not qualify. His religious faith is that of the Free Methodist church and its teachings have guided his life. He has enjoyed exceptional good health and is still vigorous and energetic, while he takes as keen an interest in public events as he did in his early manhood.

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### OLE H. MIDGORDEN.

Ole H. Midgorden, a well known farmer cultivating three hundred and twenty acres of fine land on section 4, Fayette township, is one of the excellent citizens whom Norway has given to Iowa. His birth occurred near Korragesvinger, that country, on the 26th of August, 1855, and he is a son of Hans and Martha (Johnson) Midgorden, who in 1870 removed with their family to the United States. They settled in La Salle county, Illinois, where they resided until 1883, when they went to Rock county, Minnesota. Subsequently they came to this county and resided with our subject until called by death, the demise of the father occurring in 1910 when he was eighty-four years of age and that of the mother in 1907 when she was seventy-seven years old. They were Lutherans in their religious faith. To their union were born three children: Ole H.; Mary, the wife of Charles Nelson, a resident of Rock county, Minnesota; and John, who is living practically retired in Lamoni.

Ole H. Midgorden attended school in Norway and for a short time in the United States. He learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for a number of years, but during the greater part of his life he has devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits. He has been very successful, although he began his independent career empty-handed, and now operates three hundred and twenty acres of well improved land on section 4, Fayette township, just west of Lamoni.

Moreover, he owns eighty-five acres on section 20, Bloomington township, which he rents to others. He has resided in this county since 1903 and in the intervening twelve years has won a place among the progressive and efficient farmers and stock-raisers of the county.

In 1878 Mr. Midgorden was married in Minnesota to Miss Mary Nelson, likewise a native of Norway. She was brought to this country as a child by her parents, who are now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Midgorden have been born ten children, namely: Silas, a farmer, who married Miss Mina Hepburn, by whom he has one daughter, Florence; Nellie, at home; Caroline, the wife of James Roberts, a resident of Lamoni, by whom she has two children, Geraldine and Floyd; Melvin, who is in a garage in Lamoni and who married Ethel Landon, by whom he has two children, Marvin and Delores; and Oscar, Joseph, Clara, Leonard, Alvin and Dennis, all at home.

Mr. Midgorden believes in the basic principles of the democratic party, but often casts an independent ballot. He and his wife and eight of their children belong to the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints and are active in furthering the work of that organization. His life has been one of constant industry, he has at all times been straightforward and honorable in his dealings with others and the respect and esteem in which he is generally held are richly deserved.

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### MILLARD F. STOOKEY.

For nine years, or from April 1, 1906, until April 15, 1915, Millard F. Stookey was postmaster of Leon and gave strict attention to the duties devolving upon him. His birth occurred near Leesburg, Kosciusko county, Indiana, April 25, 1849, and he is a son of Levi J. and Sarah J. (Clark) Stookey. The father was born in Fayette county, Ohio, and was reared by his grandparents as he lost his mother when but a small child. Upon attaining his majority he removed to Indiana, where he was married, but in 1855 he came with his family to Iowa, settling on a farm in Linn county. He spent the remainder of his life there, passing away at the age of eighty-seven years. Both he and his wife belonged to the Presbyterian church and his political allegiance was given to the republican party. His wife was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, and when a girl removed to Indiana with her parents. She is still living at the advanced age of eighty-nine years. They were the parents of eight children.

Millard F. Stookey received his early education in the district schools of Linn county and subsequently attended the Marion high school. Later he was for two years a student at Western College in Linn county, which has since been removed to Toledo, Iowa, and which is now known as the Leander Clark College. During his vacations Mr. Stookey worked in a printing office and learned the trade and after putting aside his textbooks he was for two years in a printing office at Toledo, Iowa, whence he went to Elroy, Wisconsin, where he edited a paper for two years. At the end of that time he came to Decatur county, Iowa, locating at Leon, September 1, 1877. After serving for two years as justice of the peace he was made clerk of the district court, which office he held for six years. At the end of that time he became associated with his cousin, Marion F. Stookey, in the conduct of the Decatur County Journal, our subject being the editor. The publication enjoyed a gratifying circulation and a good advertising patronage. On the 1st of April, 1906, he became postmaster of Leon and the acceptability of his service in that connection led to his being continued in the office until April 15, 1915, or for a little over nine years.

On the 20th of December, 1888, Mr. Stookey married Miss Jessie Forrey, a native of this place and a daughter of Judge Samuel and Abigail Forrey. Her father, who was a native of Pennsylvania, came to this county in 1854 and became a well known member of the bar. His preparation for the legal profession was secured by reading law with Thaddeus Stevens, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Mr. Forrey soon gained a foremost position in his profession and was elevated to the bench, serving for twelve years as judge of the district and circuit courts. He was one of the organizers of the republican party in this county and was prominent in its councils. He became a member of the Masonic order in Pennsylvania and after removing to Leon helped to organize the lodge here. His demise was the occasion of sincere regret as he was a valued and public-spirited citizen. Mr. and Mrs. Stookey have one son, Paul F., who in 1913 was graduated from the Chicago College of Medicine & Surgery in Chicago. He has spent two years in hospital work, the greater part of that time being at the Wabash Railroad Hospital, at Decatur, Illinois. He is now connected with the South Park Hospital in Chicago.

Mr. Stookey is a staunch republican and save for the time that he was postmaster he has for years taken an active part in the work of the party and is recognized as one of its local leaders. He has served for several terms as chairman of the republican county committee and



has also been a member of the state committee. Fraternally he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Leon. His wife is a member of the Eastern Star, the Century Club and the P. E. O. Sisterhood. In all relations of life, whether as a private citizen or as an official, Mr. Stookey has conformed his conduct to high standards and has manifested a commendable regard for the general welfare.

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### OSCAR ANDERSON.

Oscar Anderson, cashier of the State Savings Bank of Lamoni, has been connected with that institution for seventeen years and is recognized as a leader in local financial circles. He was born in La Salle county, Illinois, on the 22d of January, 1872, a son of Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Anderson, both natives of Norway. When the subject of this review was but two months old the family removed to Decatur county and the parents still reside at Lamoni.

Mr. Anderson was reared upon the home farm in the vicinity of Lamoni and remained under the parental roof until he attained his majority. He supplemented his public-school education by attendance at Highland Park College of Des Moines, from which he was graduated with the class of 1895, and he then taught in the Lamoni public schools for a period of three years, after which he became identified with the State Savings Bank of Lamoni, which was organized at that time by the late David Dancer, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work. Since 1911 Mr. Anderson has been cashier of the bank, of which he is also a director, and he gives his closest attention to the management of the affairs of the institution, which is conducted upon a safe and conservative basis. The policy of the institution, however, is to extend credit when there is sufficient security, thus aiding in the legitimate business growth of the community and at the same time discouraging ill-advised expansion by refusing too easy credit the bank not only safeguards its own interests but in the end subserves the best interests of the community. Mr. Anderson also owns three hundred and nineteen acres of land on section 9, Fayette township, the cultivation of which he carefully supervises. With his brother Andrew he rents and operates eleven hundred acres of land also in Fayette township, a part of the David Dancer estate, and in addition to his many other activities he looks after his sister's business affairs.



Mr. Anderson was married at Lamoni to Miss Belle Kelley, a native of Michigan and a daughter of Elder William H. Kelley, now a resident of Lamoni. Mrs. Anderson began her education in the schools of Ohio; was graduated from the Lamoni high school in the class of 1903 and was also graduated in music from Graceland College of Lamoni. To Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have been born three children, Oscar Kelley, Richard Carroll and Margaret Belle.

Mr. Anderson votes the republican ticket and for the last thirteen years has been a member of the Lamoni school board, of which he is now president. His religious faith is that of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints and he holds the office of elder therein, taking a very active interest in the work of the church and being now second counselor to one of the bishops. His life has been molded in accordance with high principles of manhood and he holds high rank in his community as a banker, as a citizen and as a man.

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### CHARLES D. MALLETTTE.

Charles D. Mallette, who owns two hundred and thirty acres of excellent land in Garden Grove township, was born on the 17th of November, 1849, in Huron county, Ohio, of the marriage of Charles E. and Dorothy (Sawyer) Mallette. The birth of the father occurred in 1817, in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and that of the mother in Kent, Sussex county, England, in 1818. When but five years of age she accompanied her parents, Stephen and Elizabeth (Lansdale) Sawyer, natives of England on their emigration to the United States, the family first locating in Connecticut. A short time later they removed to Cincinnati, Ohio, and after residing there for a year took up their residence in Huron county, Ohio, where their family of eleven children grew to maturity. All but one became connected with agricultural pursuits. The paternal great-grandfather of our subject emigrated to the United States from France in 1699 and his son, Stephen, was a farmer by occupation and the father of eleven children. His son, Charles E. Mallette, went to Huron county, Ohio, when twenty-one years of age and there taught school for several terms, after which he became a farmer. He passed away on the 16th of December, 1888, and was survived until the 16th of February, 1892, by his widow. Both were communicants of the Episcopal church and were estimable people. They were the parents of nine children, three of whom died in infancy, the others being: Stephen;

Betsey A., who married Henry Griswold, a grandson of Governor Griswold, of Connecticut; Isaac; Charles D.; Sylvanus; and Angeline.

Charles D. Mallette at the usual age became a student in the public schools in Huron county and in his youth attended the Western Reserve Normal College for two years and Oberlin College for one year. He then taught school for several terms in Ohio but in 1875 removed to Decatur county, Iowa, and here rented a farm, which he cultivated for three years, after which he purchased land in Wayne county, this state. He was identified with agricultural pursuits there until 1881, when he returned to Decatur county and bought his present farm, comprising two hundred and thirty acres of very rich and productive land. He has carried on general farming for eighteen or twenty years. He has also given much time and attention to dairying and the manufacture of cheese, as he established and for twenty years operated the Garden Grove Cheese factory, whose product found a ready sale upon the market, and for which he took second premium at the National Dairy Association meet at Dubuque. He also specialized to some extent in buying and raising stock, handling Holstein and Dutch Belted cattle, which he shipped to various states in the Union, including the far southwest and to Mexico. His farm is well managed and he derives a handsome income from his land. The initiative and sound business judgment which enabled him to build up a market for his cheese and which were factors in his success as a stock shipper are manifested in the care which he takes in keeping everything about his place in splendid condition. He realizes that such things as good fences, adequate buildings for the shelter of grain, stock and machinery and the utilization of the most improved farm implements are factors of no little importance in securing financial success for the farmer and stock-raiser but in his zeal to secure everything that will make his work more efficient he has not neglected his residence, which is one of the comfortable and attractive farm homes of his locality.

On the 17th of January, 1884, Mr. Mallette married Miss Eme-line A. Manney, a daughter of Francis G. and Ann Kendall (Smith) Manney. The father was born in Vermont on the 28th of February, 1806, and the mother at Sheldon, that state, on the 22d of April, 1818. Both passed away in Garden Grove township, Decatur county, the former on the 23d of January, 1887, and the latter on the 10th of January, 1877. The maternal great-great-grandfather of Mrs. Mallette bore the name of Elihu Smith and was an ensign in the War of the Revolution, performing well his part in the great work of free-

ing the colonies from England. For seventeen years he served as a member of the state legislature of Vermont and displayed as much ability as a lawmaker as he had bravery as a soldier. He was of English birth and parentage, but his whole sympathy was with the patriot cause. His son, Daniel Smith, married Sarah Emmons, of Vermont, and they were the parents of twelve children. The father of Mrs. Mallette, Francis G. Manney, resided for a number of years in Canada and served in the army during some trouble in that country. He was a member of the Masonic order and was also a communicant of the Episcopal church. To him and his wife were born ten children, Eunice, Mary J., Frederick A., Sarah G., Alice, Daniel S., Emeline A., Francis J., Johnson S. and Laura E.

Mrs. Mallette was born in Plymouth, Wisconsin, and was educated in the Garden Grove schools. For eight years she taught in the public schools and was so successful and popular that in the fall of 1882 she was chosen county superintendent of schools of Decatur county, winning the election by a good majority although the party on whose ticket she ran was normally in the minority. Her election to the office was therefore a personal tribute to her ability and an evidence of the confidence which the people of the county reposed in her. She was successful in promoting the interests of the public schools and during the two years that she held the office demonstrated her ability as an executive. She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and belongs to the Woman's Relief Corps. Everything relating to the work of the Episcopal church, of which she is a communicant, is a matter of interest to her and she has taken an active part in the furthering of its aims and purposes. For several years she has taught the Bible class known as the Town class and is associated with many movements that seek the moral advancement of her community. Mr. and Mrs. Mallette have a son, Francis G., who was educated in the public schools and in the State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts at Ames. He is a civil engineer by profession and is now serving as county engineer of Decatur county, proving accurate and trustworthy in the discharge of the duties incumbent upon him.

Mr. Mallette is a republican in his political belief and for eighteen years served Garden Grove township well as its trustee, while for several years he was a member of the school board. He is identified with the Episcopal church and for several years served on the official board thereof, giving the church the benefit of his business judgment and experience in the management of the material affairs of the parish. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, in the local lodge

of which he has held all of the offices, and he is loyal to the best interests of the order. In carrying out his plans and in attaining the financial success which is now his he has not only won a high place for himself among the farmers, dairymen and stock-raisers of Decatur county but has contributed in no small degree to the development of his county along those lines.

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### JAMES MCDIFFIT.

James McDifft, who has built up a large business as a coal merchant, is a factor in the business and commercial expansion of Davis City. He was born in Marion county, West Virginia, on the 24th of April, 1837, of the marriage of John and Elizabeth (Yost) McDifft, natives respectively of Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The father took up his residence in the latter state many years ago. He devoted his life to agricultural pursuits and died in the spring of 1865, having survived his wife since 1849.

James McDifft was reared in his native state and there attended the public schools in the acquirement of an education. He remained with his father until 1857, in which year he was married. Following that event he removed to Wheeling, West Virginia, where he worked in the coal mines for ten years, after which he emigrated to Lucas county, Iowa, and settled on eighty acres of land near Chariton. He worked out small veins of coal upon his place and then removed to Cleveland, Iowa. He bought a residence there and worked in the mines in that vicinity until 1879, when he became a stationary engineer and was so employed until 1888. In that year he arrived in Decatur county and purchased eighty acres of land in New Buda township which he operated for four years. At the end of that time he sold out and removed to Davis City. He purchased a good residence there and lived retired for a time but traded that property for a farm in Wright county, Missouri, in the fall of 1896. He operated that place for two years, after which he sold out and returned to Davis City, Iowa, buying property here. He has since resided in Davis City and has been continuously engaged in the coal business. He has met with a gratifying measure of success and during the last fall and winter sold over eight hundred tons of coal. His early experience in coal mines has stood him in good stead, making him an expert judge of the quality of coal, and he is able to secure high grades at reasonable prices for his customers.



In August, 1857, Mr. McDiffit married Miss Nancy Haines, a daughter of Reuben and Elsie (Dobbins) Haines, natives of Pennsylvania, both of whom passed away in Greene county, that state. The father was a carpenter and followed that pursuit throughout his active life. Mr. and Mrs. McDiffit had two children, both of whom died in infancy, but they reared three of her brother's children, Martha, Julia and William Fox. Julia passed away in early womanhood, leaving four children whom our subject and his wife reared. William resides near Davis City and Martha, who is the wife of John Allen, lives in the state of Washington. Mrs. McDiffit passed away on the 17th of May, 1913, after but five hours' illness, and her sudden demise was a great shock to all who knew her.

Mr. McDiffit is a republican and has always been willing to place the public good above private interests. At the time of the Civil war he served in the Union army, enlisting from Wheeling, West Virginia, in October, 1864, in Company I, Sixth West Virginia Infantry, and being mustered out in June, 1865. He finds much pleasure in his association with other veteran soldiers through the Grand Army of the Republic. He is a member of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints, of which he is an elder, and does much to further the interests of that denomination in his locality.

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### J. W. HURST.

J. W. Hurst, who is conducting a large and well patronized ladies' furnishings store in Leon under the firm name of J. W. Hurst & Company, was born in Leon January 20, 1873. After completing his elementary and secondary education he entered the State University of Iowa, where he took a liberal arts course. Practically all of his active life has been devoted to the mercantile business and the store which he now owns was established in 1861 by his father, S. W. Hurst, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work and who conducted the business for a number of years under his own name. He sold out to George Hurst, J. W. Hawkins and J. R. Conrey, who remained the owners of the business for several years. At length Mr. Hawkins retired and the firm became Hurst & Conrey until C. E. Hurst acquired Mr. Conrey's share in the business, and the name became Hurst Brothers, so continuing until 1913, when the style name was changed to J. W. Hurst & Company, the partner of our subject being J. F. Hurst. At the present time, however, the store is managed entirely by J. W. Hurst. The firm carry a com-



plete line of ladies' furnishings, carpets and rugs and their name is synonymous with high quality and reasonable prices. There has never been any question as to the integrity of the firm's business dealings and their generous policy has won them the confidence of the public and enabled them to gain a large and lucrative patronage. The store is the only one of the kind in this part of Iowa and fills a definite want in the community. From four to eight people are employed, according to the season, and the yearly volume of business reaches a large figure.

Mr. Hurst married Miss Helen Young, a daughter of the late Major J. L. Young, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work, and they have a son and daughter, James White, Jr., and Katherine, both of whom are attending school.

Mr. Hurst gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and keeps well informed as to the trend of the times in political affairs, believing it to be every citizen's duty to keep abreast of the progress that is being made in solving the great problems that confront the country. Fraternally he belongs to the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias and he attends the Methodist Episcopal church. He is one of the most successful merchants of Leon and in the conduct of his mercantile interests has not only won financial independence for himself but has also contributed to the commercial expansion of his community.

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### HENRY A. STEBBINS.

Henry A. Stebbins, of Lamoni, has been highly honored by his church—the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints—and has held many important offices in that denomination, while for forty-eight years he was active in its ministry. He was born at Toledo, Ohio, on the 28th of January, 1844, a son of Charles and Julia E. Stebbins. There were five sons and a daughter in the family, the subject of this review being the youngest. When in 1846 the father died the daughter was taken by an aunt and all of the sons went to work with exception of Henry A., who continued with his mother. In 1851 his brother George was instrumental in securing the removal of the family to Wisconsin, the greater part of the journey being made by lake. The mother and our subject settled at Newark, Rock county, but subsequently removed about eight miles to the southeast of Beloit. In 1856 our subject accompanied his brother George on

his removal to Pecatonica, Winnebago county, Illinois, and there continued his education. When not in school he clerked in stores and thus provided for his own support. In July, 1860, he began to learn the wagon-maker's trade but before his term of apprenticeship was ended the Civil war broke out and he put aside all personal interests and aims, joining the Union army when eighteen years of age. He became a corporal in Company B, Seventy-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and went with his command to the south. Many of his comrades died from exposure and sickness and he himself was eventually discharged because of disability due to illness.

While in the army and in the hospital Mr. Stebbins thought much on religious matters and on the 23d of August, 1863, was baptized in the Church of Latter Day Saints by Elder Samuel Powers, who at the time signified that Mr. Stebbins would be called upon to preach the Gospel. The following year, 1864, our subject visited his brothers, who were in business at Atchison, Kansas, and when he informed them that he intended to devote his life to religious work they refused to have anything more to do with him as they believed that he was throwing his life away. They would not even correspond with him and for thirty-five years he did not see his oldest brother, and another brother he did not see for twenty-eight years, but while on a visit to Denver in 1902 he saw them both after their long separation. The eldest died in 1904, when seventy-five years of age, leaving an estate valued at a quarter of a million dollars, but he gave nothing to his brother Henry.

Henry A. Stebbins followed the trade of wagon-making at Pecatonica, Illinois, when his health permitted but did not give up his desire to preach the Gospel and on the 20th of July, 1865, was ordained an elder by Elder Powers. The nearest congregation of the Latter Day Saints was at Marengo, Illinois, and in 1867 and again in 1868 he visited the church there. In April of the latter year he offered his name at Plano, Illinois, and was appointed to labor in Michigan under Elder E. C. Briggs, who was also associated with Elder David H. Smith. He bore his own expenses and traveled much on foot, but all of the time he was gaining confidence in himself and obtaining knowledge. Upon recovering from an attack of chills and fever in the spring of 1869 he was assigned to a mission in Wisconsin and preached in Rock county and at Prairie Du Chien. In August and September of that year he preached at Hudson, Wisconsin, and at Stillwater, Minnesota. His labors in these fields resulted in the baptism of four persons and in October he baptized four more converts in Dunn county. He continued to preach at various places

during the winter of 1869-70, which he spent at the home of O. N. Dutton, near Janesville. In April, 1870, he attended conference at Plano, and he and William H. Garrett acted as the secretaries of that body. In June of that year Mr. Stebbins was chosen president of the northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin district and for six years, or until June, 1876, he traveled almost continuously among the twelve branches. In 1874 he preached in Chicago, his sermons being the first ever given there by a minister of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints. In April, 1876, he was chosen one of the board of publication and assistant editor of the Herald, which was then and still is the official paper of the church, Lamoni, Iowa, being since 1881 the place of publication. In 1880 Mr. Stebbins resigned as assistant editor and removed to Lamoni, where he engaged in the grain and lumber business in connection with David Dancer and A. S. Cochran. However, his heart was still with the work of the church and after a short time he withdrew from his business connections and again gave his undivided attention to promoting the interests of religion. For forty-eight years he was active in the ministry of his church and during that time preached in Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Texas, Colorado, California and Utah. His labors resulted in the baptism of about five hundred people and he is widely known among the members of the Reorganized Church.

Mr. Stebbins was general church recorder for thirty-two years, from 1874 to 1906, and held the office of church secretary from 1875 until 1895. For twenty-one years he was secretary of the Quorum of High Priests, serving in that office from April, 1882, to April, 1903, and from 1871 to 1882 he was bookkeeper and secretary for Bishop Israel L. Rogers. In 1875 he was made secretary and counselor of the First Quorum of Elders and held that office for four years. For five years, from 1870 to 1875, he was secretary and bookkeeper of the First United Order of Enoch and in 1879 he was ordained as a high priest. In 1901 he was made one of the Lamoni Stake Council and held that position until 1907, when he resigned on account of increasing deafness. He served as one of the board of location appointed to decide on a site for the Herald office and for the church headquarters and with others was instrumental in securing the removal from Plano to Lamoni in 1880. For two or three years he was president of the Lamoni branch and for eight years was president of the Decatur district, now known as the Lamoni stake, and for some time in 1882 was president of the Nauvoo and String Prairie district.

At Burlington, Iowa, on the 7th of October, 1879, Mr. Stebbins was united in marriage to Miss Clara B. Sellon. Three children were born to them, all of whom, however, have passed away. The birth of Mrs. Stebbins occurred in Shiawassee county, Michigan, on the 13th of December, 1858, and her parents were William R. and Alma Sophia (Fletcher) Sellon. Her parental grandfather, Rev. John Sellon, was an Episcopal clergyman of New England and was a force for good in his community. Her father, William R. Sellon, served in the Mexican war and in the Civil war, holding the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Union army in the latter conflict. He was a native of New York and his wife's birth occurred in Pennsylvania. They were married in Pittsfield, Pike county, Illinois, and subsequently removed to Michigan, where the father taught school for a number of years. In 1862 the family home was established at Burlington, Iowa, and the father was successively a bookkeeper, superintendent of schools of Des Moines county and court reporter. He was a highly educated man and took his college work at Columbia University. For some time he lived in California and served as court reporter while a resident of Riverside, that state, but eventually returned to Burlington, where he died in May, 1906, at the age of eighty-two years, as he was born in 1824. He was a member of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints, as was his wife, who passed away in 1890, at the age of sixty-four. Mrs. Stebbins is the fifth in the family of eight children, of whom another daughter, Mrs. H. S. Cramer, of Denver, Colorado, and a son, Brodie R. Sellon, who is presumably living in California, also survive. A relative of the family, Sir Benjamin Brodie, was a noted chemist and was surgeon to Queen Victoria and prominent in his profession. Merle d'Aubigné, the distinguished Swiss Protestant church historian, married a great aunt of Mrs. Stebbins and on her mother's side she is descended from Governor Bradford, of Massachusetts. She is also related to the Webster family, of which Noah Webster, the great lexicographer, was a representative.

Mrs. Stebbins has been a member of the Church of Latter Day Saints since 1875 and has taught in the Sunday school the greater part of the time during the years that have since elapsed. In 1890 she began editing the domestic department in Autumn Leaves and later had charge of the Daughters of Zion department and still later the Ladies' Auxiliary department. She is at present writing for the Woman's Auxiliary, her articles appearing in the home column of the Herald, which is published in Lamoni. For many years she has been superintendent of the primary department in the Sunday school at



Lamoni and is at present a member of the board of trustees and has served as secretary of the admission and dismissal committee of the Children's Home maintained by the church. She is also a member of the education and clothing committees. Until recently she was a member of the advisory board of the Woman's Auxiliary for Social Service and for many years has been president of the local Woman's Auxiliary and is making that department an active force for good.

Mr. Stebbins gives his support to the republican party but has never taken much part in political affairs, although he has been at all times willing to aid in promoting the welfare of the community. His paternal grandfather fought in the Revolutionary war and his maternal grandfather was a soldier of the War of 1812. Mr. Stebbins has never been found lacking in commendable public spirit. His life work, however, has been the preaching of the Gospel and the spread of the influence of his church and in those lines he has accomplished much.

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### ORIN J. HILL.

Among the successful farmers and stock-raisers of Hamilton township is Orin J. Hill, who was born in Washington county, Ohio, near the city of Marietta, on the 12th of September, 1860, a son of McIntosh and Lovina (Johnston) Hill. The father was born in Washington county, Ohio, of Irish and Pennsylvania-Dutch ancestry. His father, Abraham Hill, was a native of Maryland and his grandfather, Isaac Hill, was a farmer of that state. Abraham Hill was by profession a trained nurse. His wife was in her maidenhood Miss Mary Brittain and was born in Pennsylvania. Their son, McIntosh Hill, followed the carpenter's trade in his early manhood but subsequently gave his attention to agricultural pursuits. He served for three years in the Civil war, enlisting at Marietta, Ohio, in Company I, Thirty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. The year 1871 witnessed his removal to Fayette county, Ohio, and there he worked at carpentering and farmed for fifteen years. In 1886 he located in Wayne county, Iowa, where he remained for a like period of time, after which he came to this county, settling in Hamilton township, where he purchased land. Three years later he was called to his reward, his demise occurring on the 15th of February, 1905. His wife was a daughter of Peter and Comfort Johnston, natives respectively of West Virginia and of Maine. The mother of Comfort



Johnston was before her marriage Miss Lois Cottle and was likewise born in the Pine Tree state. Peter and Comfort Johnston both removed to Indiana in their youth and there their marriage was solemnized. Their daughter Lovina was born in Virginia and was married in Washington county, Ohio. Following the demise of her husband she removed to Pleasanton, where she passed away in 1909. They were the parents of eight children, six of whom survive, namely: Hannah Elizabeth, who resides with her sister, Mrs. J. H. Stover, who is the next in order of birth and further mention of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Orin J.; John M., a resident of Custer, Oklahoma; George C., of Davis City, a sketch of whom is given elsewhere in this volume; and James Henry, a carpenter living in Mercer county, Missouri.

Orin J. Hill received a common-school education in Fayette county, Ohio, and since 1886 has resided in this state. He remained with his parents and assisted his father with the work of the farm until he emigrated to Iowa and thus gained agricultural knowledge which enabled him to carry on general farming for himself after his arrival in this county. He located in Hamilton township one mile due east of his present home and for a few years farmed rented land. He then purchased a forty acre brush tract, which he cleared as soon as possible and which he cultivated for a number of years. In March, 1911, he purchased his present home of one hundred and twenty acres of well improved land on sections 15 and 16, Hamilton township, forty acres of which he subsequently sold. He still owns eighty acres and derives a good income from his work as a farmer and stock-raiser. He feeds high grade cattle and hogs, which he sells to the shippers, and, as his animals are always in good condition, they bring a high price.

Mr. Hill was married in 1887 to Miss Chloe A. Moorman, a daughter of James and Susanna (Allen) Moorman. Her father was born in Greene county, Ohio, September 5, 1835, and followed the occupation of farming. In 1885 he located on a farm in Decatur county two and a half miles east of Pleasanton, becoming the owner of eighty acres of land, upon which he resided until his death, which occurred November 25, 1907. He was married to Susanna Allen in 1860 in Greene county, Ohio, and her demise occurred there in 1872. Later he married Miss Hannah Johnson, a daughter of Peter Johnson. She died on the 22d of November, 1906. Mrs. Hill, who was the only child born to her parents, has become the mother of three children: Ora Esther, whose birth occurred June 17, 1889, and who is the wife of Oakland Vaughn, a farmer of Hamilton township, by

whom she has two children, Beatrice and Ronald; James Orville, who was born March 7, 1894, and died February 20, 1909; and Alta Lenora, born January 25, 1904, who is attending school in district No. 7, Hamilton township.

Mr. Hill casts his ballot in support of the candidates and principles of the republican party and has served for four years as trustee of Hamilton township, while for one term he was school director in district No. 7, of that township, and for several terms was director of district No. 6. Both he and his wife belong to the Christian Union church at Pleasanton, Iowa, and their religious faith is embodied in their daily lives. He holds the unqualified respect of all who have come in contact with him, as he has at all times conformed to high standards of morality and as he is ready and willing to cooperate in securing the advancement of his community along either material or moral lines.

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### EDWIN BEVINS.

Edwin Bevins is one of the oldest and also one of the most honored residents of Eden township. He has almost reached the eighty-fourth milestone on life's journey and has at all times discharged to the full all of the obligations resting upon him. For many years he was actively engaged in farming but is now enjoying a well earned rest and leisure. He was born in Hague, Warren county, New York, August 30, 1831, of the marriage of Thomas C. and Rowena (Butters) Bevins, natives respectively of Vermont and New Hampshire. The father emigrated to New York in his early manhood and there engaged in farming and lumbering for forty-nine years. In 1865, however, he removed to Illinois and made his home with our subject until his demise, which occurred in March, 1873. He had long survived his wife, who died in September, 1835.

Edwin Bevins was only four years of age when his mother died and was only six years old when he went to live with his grandmother, with whom he remained until he was of age. A year after attaining his majority he went to Pennsylvania, where he found work in a saw-mill. He remained in the Keystone state for four years, but at the end of that time removed to Illinois. Subsequently he took up his residence in Clayton county, Iowa, where he engaged in teaching school for one term, at the end of which time he returned to Illinois and for a year farmed in partnership with a brother-in-law. At the

end of that time Mr. Bevins' health failed and he went back to New York and resided with his father until 1865. In that year he again went to Illinois and purchased land in Carroll county, which he operated for about twenty-five years. In 1890 he sold that place and came to this county, buying two hundred acres in partnership with his brother. Subsequently, however, he bought ninety acres of additional land, forty acres of which he afterward sold. His holdings lie in Eden township, and his land is well improved and in a high state of cultivation. He gave much attention to the raising of pure bred Polled Durham cattle and Poland China hogs in addition to growing the usual crops. He was successful as an agriculturist, was a prominent bee keeper for years, and accumulated a competence.

In January, 1866, Mr. Bevins married Miss Julia M. Prentiss, a daughter of Reuben and Roxena (Upham) Prentiss, who were born respectively in New Hampshire and Connecticut. Her parents resided in Vermont for many years and there the father carried on agricultural pursuits. His demise occurred in November, 1867, and that of the mother in June, 1857. Mr. and Mrs. Bevins became the parents of a daughter, Frances P., who was born in Illinois in November, 1867. She is now the wife of Henry E. Horney, who was born in Ohio in June, 1867, of the marriage of Oliver and Sarah (Underwood) Horney. His parents were natives of Ohio and the father farmed there for many years. During the Civil war he fought valiantly in the Union army. He died in 1910 but his wife still survives. Mr. Henry E. Horney operates the farm belonging to our subject. Mr. and Mrs. Horney have seven children, namely: Julia M., twenty-one years of age, who is the wife of Harley Fitch, a farmer of Eden township; Lee B., nineteen years of age, who is at home; Lillie L., who died in 1901 at the age of two years; Edwin O., thirteen years old; Charles H., who died in June, 1905, when three months old; Esther S., seven years of age; and Edith M., a child of two years. Mrs. Bevins died July 3, 1881, after being an invalid for several years. In November, 1883, Mr. Bevins married her sister, Miss Lucia S. Prentiss, who passed away in January, 1901, after a few days' illness.

Mr. Bevins is a republican and has been honored by election to a number of public offices, which he has filled to the entire satisfaction of his constituents. His religious faith is that of the Presbyterian church. Although throughout his life he has given careful attention to his work as a farmer, he has not forgotten his duties as a citizen and has at all times been willing to cooperate in movements seeking the welfare of his community. His old age is crowned with

the sense of worthy achievement and with the respect and warm regard of all who know him. He has almost reached the age of eighty-four years and his brother, who is eighty-six years old, and who has farmed in this county for twenty-five years, lives with him.

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### CHARLES T. RHODES.

Among the successful farmers and stock-raisers of Bloomington township is Charles T. Rhodes, who owns and operates two hundred and forty acres on section 28. He was born in Muscatine county, Iowa, near the village of Letts, August 14, 1868, a son of Jacob and Jane E. Rhodes, an account of whose lives appears elsewhere in this work.

Our subject was reared upon the home farm and attended the district schools in the acquirement of an education. His entire life has been devoted to farming and stock-raising and for many years he operated a half section of land in Bloomington township. He grows the usual crops and also raises a good grade of live stock, from the sale of which he derives a gratifying addition to his income.

Mr. Rhodes was married December 16, 1890, at Chariton, Iowa, to Miss Lorena Bathe, of Tuskeega, Bloomington township, this county. Her birth occurred on the 21st of November, 1868, and she is a daughter of George R. and Margaret Ann (McDonald) Bathe, the latter born in Madison county, Ohio, February 2, 1844. A sketch of her grandfather, the late Malay McDonald, appears elsewhere in this work. Mrs. Bathe died in 1890 when forty-six years of age. A sketch of the life of Mr. Bathe is given on another page of this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes reside upon the old homestead of her grandfather, Malay McDonald. To their union have been born two children. Faye Lucile was born September 30, 1891. After completing the course in the high school at Lamoni in 1910, she attended Graceland College for four years and Des Moines College for one year. She specialized in music, studying under Miss Wicks of Graceland College and Miss Edith Usry of Des Moines College. For nine years she has taught music and now has a studio at Lamoni and a class of nineteen pupils in that city and its vicinity. She is the director of the choir of the Methodist church at Lamoni and for a number of years was pianist for the Coliseum orchestra. Leighton Lewis, whose birth occurred on the 7th of August, 1893, is a sophomore at the State College at Ames. On May 1, 1915, he won the Shirley Allen cup in



his society, the Beardshear Literary Society, of which he is treasurer. He has made several trips with the college Glee Club, of which he is a member, and his monologues add much to the effectiveness of the programs given by that organization. He is a graduate of the Lamoni high school of the class of 1912 and for two and a half years took special work in oratory at Graceland College. He won first place and a medal in oratory in a contest in which nine schools competed and has recently won a medal in oratory at Ames.

Mr. Rhodes is a staunch republican and has been a delegate to various congressional and state conventions of his party. He is now serving his second term as clerk of Bloomington township, his ability and conscientiousness in the discharge of his duties having gained him reelection. Fraternally he belongs to the Knights of Pythias of Lamoni. His wife and children take an active part in the work of the Methodist Episcopal church and he can be counted upon to further movements for the moral advancement of his community. He holds the sincere respect, the confidence and the goodwill of those who know him, as his life has been guided by honorable principles.

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### E. W. FIERCE.

E. W. Fierce, a native of Long Creek township, who is engaged in farming in that township, was born on the 26th of January, 1870. His parents, William E. and Anna (West) Fierce, were born respectively in Indiana and in Ohio. The father, who was brought to this county when a child, grew to manhood here, and on beginning his independent career purchased land in Long Creek township, devoting his life to agricultural pursuits. At the time of the Civil war he enlisted in the Union army and served at the front for one year. He died when fifty-two years of age, his demise occurring July 10, 1895. His wife is living at Van Wert at the age of sixty-four.

E. W. Fierce was reared in his native township and after attending the district schools entered the Van Wert schools. He continued to reside with his parents until he became of age and then rented land from his father, which he operated until the demise of the latter. Our subject then inherited a tract of land and now owns eighty acres on section 24, Long Creek township, which he has brought to a high state of development. He carries on general farming and stock-raising and both branches of his business are proving profitable.



On the 28th of November, 1899, Mr. Fierce married Miss Anna E. Stearns, further mention of whose parents, Jonathan and Carrie S. (Bates) Stearns, is found elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Fierce have two children: Arthur L., fourteen years of age; and Beulah E., a child of six years.

The republican party finds in Mr. Fierce a strong advocate and supporter and he has served acceptably as township trustee. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. All who have come into contact with him esteem him highly and no movement designed for the public welfare lacks his cooperation.

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### MARTIN M. TURPEN, D. D.

Elder Martin M. Turpen, who is pastor of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints at Pleasanton, has done excellent work in the religious field and was also identified with agricultural pursuits in this county for many years. He was born in Hamilton township, Decatur county, Iowa, August 19, 1853, a son of Aaron and Lucinda (Miller) Turpen. His parents, who were natives respectively of Kentucky and of Indiana, removed to Decatur county, Iowa, before the admission of the state into the Union and the father entered land in Hamilton township. He cleared his farm and devoted his time to its operation during the remainder of his life with the exception of four years which he spent in Kansas. He passed away in 1905, having survived his wife for many years, her demise occurring in 1870.

Martin M. Turpen was reared and educated in Hamilton township and remained upon the homestead until he was eighteen years of age. He then rented a farm, which he operated until 1900, when he purchased eighty acres of land on sections 15 and 22, Hamilton township. He at once set about improving his property and was active in the cultivation of his land until 1912, when he rented the place to his son. In the meantime he had become a leader in the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints and for the past twenty-eight years he has been a minister of that organization. For a long time he was a traveling missionary and then was for two years pastor of the church at Centerville, Iowa. At the present time he has charge of the church at Pleasanton and under his direction the work of its various departments is being very successfully conducted. He combines the regard for spiritual things and the religious zeal that are

the first qualifications of a minister with the practical ability that enables him to work out the high moral teachings of his church into terms of community life.

On the 17th of September, 1876, Elder Turpen married Miss Mary E. McNeil, a daughter of Alex and Elizabeth McNeil, both natives of Indiana. The father was an early settler of this county and for many years farmed in Burrell township. He passed away in 1877 but was survived until 1895 by his widow. Elder and Mrs. Turpen have five children: Claud R., a plasterer and mason residing in Mt. Ayr, who is married and has three children, Eugene, Stephen and Ruth; Clara who married L. M. McNeil, a farmer of Mercer county, Missouri, by whom she has three children, Ellen O., Doris E. and Ray L.; Stephen A., a veterinary surgeon residing in Quenemo, Osage county, Kansas, who is married and has three children, Alma, Thelma and Merle; George M., who is manager of the Lamoni Hardware Company; and David D., who is farming his father's farm. He married Blanche La Follette and they had become the parents of two children: Mildred B., aged four; and a child who died in infancy.

Elder Turpen is a republican and has always taken the interest of a good citizen in public affairs although he has never been active in politics. While he was engaged in farming he was known as an energetic and successful agriculturist but for many years his chief interest has been in his work as a minister of the Gospel and his labors have borne fruit in the deepening of the religious life of the communities in which he has served.

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### JOSEPH WALTON.

Although many years have passed since Joseph Walton was called to his final rest, there are still those in this county who remember him and cherish his memory because of his many admirable qualities of character. He was born October 30, 1841, in Indiana, a son of Lenhart and Elizabeth (Clark) Walton, both natives of Ohio and the former of Irish descent. They removed to Iowa with their family in the early '50s and the father purchased land on section 4, Eden township, Decatur county, which he cultivated for a number of years. He passed away at the home his daughter, Mrs. Henry Oney, in Eden township.

Joseph Walton accompanied his parents on their removal to this county and here grew to manhood, remaining upon the home farm

until he reached mature years. He was early trained to agricultural pursuits, was energetic and industrious and possessed excellent judgment. On the 1st of October, 1868, he was married and a week later was taken ill with typhoid fever, which occasioned his demise on the 4th of November following at the home of his father on section 4, Eden township.

His widow was in her maidenhood Miss Mary E. Chastain, and her birth occurred on the 22d of January, 1836, in Putnam county, Indiana. Her parents, Levi and Louisa (Martin) Chastain, were both born in Bath county, Kentucky, and were descended respectively from French and from Irish and Yankee ancestry. They were married in their native county but removed to Indiana at an early day in the history of that state. For twenty-five years they resided in Putnam county, where the father carried on agricultural pursuits, but at the end of that time they removed to Iowa, locating on a farm in Eden township, Decatur county, which the father had purchased with a land warrant before leaving the Hoosier state. Subsequently he bought an adjoining one hundred and sixty acres and he continued to farm until he retired from active life and removed to Leon, where both he and his wife passed away. He took a great deal of interest in growing small fruit and was completely contented when planting, grafting or otherwise engaged in horticultural work. He was a democrat in politics and both he and his wife belonged to the Christian church while living in Kentucky. They were the parents of four children besides Mrs. Walton. Lucy is the deceased wife of J. B. McGinnis, of Indiana, who has also passed away. Licious Rane married Sarah J. Walton, who is now living in Center township upon a farm. Eliza A. died at the age of seventy-four years. John, a resident of Leon, married Sarah A. Alsbaugh.

To Mr. and Mrs. Walton was born a son, Joseph Willis, whose birth occurred on the 8th of May, 1869. He is farming in Eden township and is well known and highly esteemed in his community. He married Miss Ena Hazlet, and they have three children, namely: Mary, Margaret and Willie Hugh.

Following her husband's demise Mrs. Walton resided upon the home place, which her son, Joseph Willis, began to operate as soon as he reached mature years. In 1905 she and her maiden sister, Eliza A., removed to a farm on section 4, Eden township, which Mrs. Walton owns, and there she is still living, although her sister passed away on the 23d of August, 1911. Mrs. Walton has reached the advanced age of seventy-nine years and yet is still active and takes a keen interest in the happenings of the day. She has the entire respect and the

warm regard of all who know her, as she possesses many excellent qualities of character. During the many years that she has resided in this county she has witnessed a remarkable transformation and has taken much pleasure in seeing the advancement of civilization and the growth in the material prosperity of the county.

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### BENJAMIN A. NORMAN.

Benjamin A. Norman, a retired farmer and veteran of the Civil war, was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, September 25, 1844, of the marriage of Benjamin and Nancy (Tipton) Norman. The father, whose birth occurred in Pennsylvania, June 26, 1805, came of Pennsylvania-Dutch ancestry. He was a farmer by occupation and removed west with his family in 1848, locating in Lee county, Iowa, where he resided for four years. He then went to Wapello county, where he farmed until 1856, when he came to Decatur county and took up his residence in Burrell township on land which he purchased. He passed away June 24, 1867. The mother of our subject was born in Ohio, May 17, 1806, and was married in her native state. She died December 22, 1852, when our subject was but eight years of age, and the father subsequently married Mary Ann Weaver, a native of Manchester, England, who died April 4, 1865. To Benjamin and Nancy Norman were born eleven children, namely: John, whose birth occurred July 10, 1824, and who is deceased; Jessie, who was born June 18, 1826, and who is also deceased; Delilah, deceased, who was born December 3, 1828; George Elliott, who was born December 19, 1830, and who died while serving in the Union army in the Civil war; Charles Wesley, who was born November 29, 1832, and who is now living at Trenton, Missouri; Francis, deceased, who was born March 17, 1834; James and Samuel, twins, born September 8, 1838, the former of whom is now living at Council Bluffs, Iowa, and the latter in St. Joseph, Missouri; Mary Mulvina, who was born February 15, 1840, and who is now residing in Agency, Iowa; Clemens, deceased, whose birth occurred on the 25th of July, 1842; and Benjamin A.

The last named attended school in Lee county, Iowa, and as a boy and youth assisted his father with the work of the farm. In 1862, when about eighteen years of age, he endeavored to join the Union army but was several times rejected on account of his size and age. The first time he enlisted in the Seventeenth Iowa Volunteer



Infantry and went to Keokuk but was sent home. Almost immediately he tried to enlist in the Eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry but was rejected at Bloomfield which, however, did not lessen his desire to become a soldier. He next enlisted in Company I, Thirty-fourth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and this time he was accepted and mustered into the Federal army. After serving nine months he was discharged on account of illness. He participated in the first siege of Vicksburg under General Sherman and was at the battle of Arkansas Post, where seven thousand rebel prisoners were taken. His regiment was sent to Chicago with the prisoners and then returned to Benton Barracks, St. Louis, where Mr. Norman was taken sick and honorably discharged from the service. He returned home and as soon as his health had sufficiently recovered he endeavored to reenlist in both the Eighth Iowa and Ninth Iowa Cavalry but both regiments were filled. Eventually he was sent to the Fourth Iowa Volunteer Cavalry at Vicksburg and served in Company G of that regiment until the close of the war, when he was mustered out at Atlanta, Georgia, and discharged at Davenport, Iowa.

Mr. Norman returned home and located upon a farm in Burrell township, this county, but subsequently sold that property and removed to Council Bluffs, where he lived for eight years, after which he returned to Burrell township, where he farmed successfully until 1890. In that year he sold out and purchased property in Davis City, where he has since lived. He has one of the nicest homes in Davis City and although he is living partially retired gives considerable time and attention to the growing of small fruit and flowers. For five years he served as janitor of the high school and his work in that position was efficient and satisfactory.

On the 27th of August, 1863, four days before he went to the front a second time, Mr. Norman was united in marriage to Miss Julia A. Sylvester, who was born in Meigs county, Ohio, August 10, 1848. Her father, John Sylvester, was born near Augusta, Maine, May 10, 1810, of Yankee ancestry. In 1850 he drove a wagon train from Meigs county, Ohio, to the gold fields of California and after remaining there for some time returned home by way of Cape Horn. He was a stonemason by trade and in 1855 emigrated westward with his family with Kansas as his destination. However, the border warfare which was then being waged decided him to locate in Iowa and he settled in Burrell township, Decatur county. He purchased a farm north of Davis City, where he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives. He erected the Covington store building, the first brick building in the city of Decatur, and divided his time between



following his trade and cultivating his land. He passed away March 5, 1879. His wife, who was in her maidenhood Margaret Grimes, was born in Meigs county, Ohio, July 19, 1816, and was married in Rutland county, that state. Her demise occurred January 21, 1882. To them were born the following children: Delila, whose birth occurred on the 23d of August, 1833, and who is now deceased; Arthur, born June 26, 1835, who is also deceased; Terresse, who was born September 19, 1837, and who has passed away; Jehu, deceased, who was born October 25, 1839; Benton, who was born May 23, 1842, and who is deceased; Emma J., deceased, whose birth occurred May 31, 1843; John S., Jr., who was born June 13, 1845, and who was killed while serving in the Union army in May, 1863; Sarah, who was born March 4, 1847, and is deceased; Julia A., now Mrs. Norman; Monterville, born October 20, 1852, who is engaged in ranching near Columbus, Montana, and who married Adaline Beasley; an infant daughter, who died March 27, 1854; and Cinderella, who was born November 21, 1856. She was a teacher by profession and was killed by lightning June 24, 1879, when coming home from her school, the Stringtown school, west of Davis City, with her niece, Nellie Sylvester, six years of age. They took refuge from the storm in an old cabin but the wind tore off the roof and they were both killed by lightning.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman have four children, as follows: John Sylvester, born September 2, 1866, was for seven years a teacher in the public schools of Doniphan county, Kansas, and was also engaged in the mercantile business for a number of years before becoming connected with banking. He is now part owner of the First National Bank of Troy, Kansas. He married Alberta Clark, of Davis City, and they have two children, Vera Aubrey and Clark W. Charles V., whose birth occurred January 1, 1870, taught school for nine years and for ten years held the office of county superintendent of schools. He is now a partner of his brother John S. in the ownership of the First National Bank of Troy, Kansas. He first married Miss Sadie Leland, of that city, who passed away a few months after the death of her only child, a son, Cyrus, and for his second wife he chose Mrs. Bernice Keefe, of Davis City. Estelle Gertrude, born November 4, 1872, is a graduate of the Battle Creek (Mich.) Medical College. She is now practicing her profession at Moline, Illinois, and is meeting with gratifying success. Pearl Aubrey, born February 19, 1878, married Grisson Grimes, who is a merchant of Troy, Kansas, while she is a teacher in the public schools of that place.

Mr. Norman gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has taken quite a prominent part in local public affairs. He has served as road master in Burrell township and for ten years was assessor of Davis City, while for four years he was street commissioner of Davis City. He is now a member of the town council. He belonged to the Grand Army post at Davis City for many years and was for a number of years a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Davis City although he is not now associated with that organization. His wife holds membership in the Seventh Day Adventist Church. On the 27th of August, 1913, they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary and all of their children but John were present. A musical and literary program was given and a fine dinner was served to the many friends who were present and who wished Mr. and Mrs. Norman many happy returns of the day. Their lives have been well spent and have been factors for good in the community where they have lived for so long.

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### ARTHUR M. HAAG.

In any community there is usually one man who is recognized as being preeminent in its commercial circles and it is generally acknowledged in Pleasanton that Arthur M. Haag was the most aggressive and most successful business man of the town. In building up his large general store he won a gratifying share of financial prosperity for himself and also contributed in large measure to the growth and development of Pleasanton.

Mr. Haag was born in Clarke county, Iowa, on the 31st of March, 1875, a son of Dr. William P. and Rosaltha M. (Moore) Haag, both natives of Ohio. The father was an excellent physician and removed to Clarke county, Iowa, in the early days of its history and there practiced his profession until the outbreak of the Civil war. He enlisted in the Union army and served throughout the conflict as assistant surgeon. Following the close of hostilities he returned to Clarke county, Iowa, and located at Murray, where he practiced medicine until his demise in 1892 when but forty-eight years of age. His wife died in 1890.

Arthur M. Haag was reared in Clarke county and received an excellent education. In 1896 he was graduated from the College of Pharmacy of Drake University at Des Moines. Previous to that time he taught school a number of years in Clarke county and by

saving his salary secured the funds to pay his college expenses. After his graduation he went to Stuart, Iowa, and for a year operated a drug store, but in 1897 he came to Pleasanton and went into partnership with Dr. I. M. Lovett for the conduct of a drug business. As the years passed the firm added other lines, developing the store into a large general mercantile establishment. Mr. Haag recognized and promptly took advantage of opportunities which others failed to see and was constantly seeking some way in which he might better the service which he gave his customers and the community. His foresight, aggressiveness and fair dealing gained him a patronage which constantly increased, and he became a recognized leader among the merchants of Pleasanton. He was public-spirited to a marked degree and no plan for the improvement of the community lacked his heartiest support and most enthusiastic cooperation. Many times he was the originator of movements for the good of the community, but whether the plan grew out of his ideas or had its inception in the mind of another he was equally ready to do all in his power to bring about its successful execution. He was a potent force in the advancement of Pleasanton along many lines and the influence of his life still remains.

Mr. Haag was married on the 22d of September, 1896, to Miss Rosa May Lee, a daughter of James and Eleanor (Cason) Lee, natives respectively of Illinois and of Indiana. They became pioneers of Madison county, Iowa, where the father farmed for many years. He served in the Mexican war and was for four years in the Union army in the Civil war. In that conflict he was wounded in the knee, which remained stiff during the rest of his life. He passed away on the 28th of January, 1897, but was survived until the 1st of January, 1902, by his wife. To Mr. and Mrs. Haag were born four children: Royal B., who died on the 8th of March, 1898, when three weeks and three days old; Merville J., who is now thirteen years old; Thelma L., eleven years of age; and Vera D., nine years old.

Mr. Haag was a republican and served for a number of years on the town council, of which he was secretary at the time of his death. His religious belief was that of the Methodist church and fraternally he was connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Masonic order. Although he had only seventy-five dollars when he came to Pleasanton, at the time of his death he was one of its wealthy men, held title to one hundred and forty acres of excellent land adjoining the town and owned the finest residence in the town. His widow still owns the home, sixty acres of land and considerable business property. The success which Mr. Haag achieved was due to

unrenmitting industry, aggressiveness, vigilance in supervising all of the details of his business and superior foresight and judgment. At no time did he seek to gain by taking undue advantage of another, and there was never the slightest question as to his integrity and unswerving honesty. His demise occurred on the 19th of January, 1913, at a hospital in Centerville, this state.

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### JAMES R. BROWN.

James R. Brown, a prosperous farmer and stock-raiser of Garden Grove township, who owns in all two hundred and thirty acres of excellent land, was born in Albany county, New York, on the 1st of March, 1853, a son of Thomas and Mary (Rodgers) Brown. The father was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, and immediately following his marriage removed with his bride to the United States, settling in New York. After residing in the Empire state for two years they removed to McHenry county, Illinois, where they remained until 1869. In that year they came to Decatur county and settled on section 15, Garden Grove township, where the father purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land. In 1885 they took up their residence in Garden Grove, and there the father died in 1901, at the age of seventy-five years. The mother passed away in 1898, when more than seventy years of age. They were Presbyterians in religious faith and he was a democrat in politics. To their union were born six children, namely: John, who was formerly a well known and successful farmer of Decatur county but who is now living retired in New York state; James R.; Mrs. Thomas McKinney, of Garden Grove township; and Margaret, Mary and Thomas, all residents of Garden Grove.

James R. Brown was reared under the parental roof and attended the common schools in Illinois and Iowa. He still resides on the homestead upon which the family settled in 1869, and which he now owns, having purchased it from his father in 1885. It comprises one hundred and thirty acres and he also owns other land, his holdings aggregating two hundred and thirty acres, part of which he has rented to others. In 1906 he built a fine residence and he has made many other improvements upon the place, which is one of the valuable farm properties of his locality. He devotes the greater part of his attention to raising cattle, hogs and horses and has gained a gratifying measure of prosperity, being numbered among the well-to-do agriculturists of Garden Grove township.



Mr. Brown was married in this county in 1885 to Miss Elizabeth Schwilck, who was born in Wyandot county, Ohio, in November, 1865. Her parents, J. J. and Mary (Pfeifer) Schwilck, were born in Holstein, Germany. The father emigrated to America when a young man and the mother accompanied her parents to this country when but a child. Their marriage occurred in Ohio, where they resided until 1874, when they removed to Wayne county, Iowa. They are now living retired in Corydon. During his active life the father followed agricultural pursuits. To their union were born twelve children, of whom eleven survive, namely, Jacob; Mrs. Mary Hayne; William; Mrs. Katherine Riley; Mrs. Brown; Frank; Mrs. Jennie Riley; Mrs. Julia Noble; Matilda, who is a trained nurse; Winnie, who is residing with her parents; and George, who is married and resides in Corydon. Of these all but Mrs. Brown are living in Wayne county. Mrs. Marie Abel, the fourth in order of birth, is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have three children, as follows: Murice W. is at home and is operating part of his father's land, besides forty acres which he owns. Mary Frances, who has taken a three years' course in the Nurses' Training school of the State University Hospital, was married June 16, 1915, to Claude Woodmansee Robinson. Their home is at Davis City, Iowa. Julia Ruth, who completed a high-school course, also studied to be a trained nurse.

Mr. Brown is a democrat and has always taken a keen interest in everything relating to the welfare of his community although he has never desired to hold public office. The family are Presbyterians in religious faith and all are high esteemed. Mr. Brown is energetic and progressive and the success which he has won in his chosen occupation is richly deserved.

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### STEPHEN VARGA.

Stephen Varga, who owns the only set of abstract books in Decatur county and who is an able and energetic business man of Leon, was born on the Varga homestead in Long Creek township on the 3d of August, 1859, a son of Francis and Mary (Zander) Varga. A sketch of his father appears elsewhere in this work.

Stephen Varga attended the Leon schools, from which he was graduated in 1879, and later entered the Bryant & Stratton Business College at Burlington, where he received thorough commercial training. In 1876-77 he served as deputy treasurer under his father, after which he entered the law department of the State University, from



which he was graduated in 1881. For about a year he was associated with Major Young in the practice of law and later became his father's partner. In 1892 he and his father purchased the only set of abstract books in the county, which was then owned by the Farmers & Traders State Bank of Leon. Father and son continued in business together until the demise of the former on the 5th of April, 1902, and since that date Stephen Varga has been alone. The abstract books are complete and accurate and have proved of great value to the county, as, in 1874 the records of the auditor and recorder were destroyed by fire and the abstract books now owned by Mr. Varga contained the only other record of land titles in the county then in existence. As the years have passed they have been kept strictly up-to-date and they now comprise ten large volumes. The abstracts are recognized by the courts and are accepted by expert examiners in the employ of large loan companies. Mr. Varga is reasonable in his charges and most painstaking in his work and has gained a large clientage and an enviable reputation for fair dealing and for thoroughness and efficiency.

On the 21st of October, 1886, Mr. Varga married Miss Sarah Evans, and they have a son, Francis, who, after graduating from the high school of Leon, entered the State University of Iowa and there completed the liberal arts and law courses, graduating with the class of 1913. He is now a member of the Leon bar and is recognized as an alert and aggressive young attorney.

Mr. Varga of this review is a Knight Templar Mason and in his life exemplifies the spirit of goodwill and helpfulness which is the foundation of the craft. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He is an acknowledged expert in the matter of land titles and is thoroughly informed on all legal questions pertaining to real-estate matters, his advice being often sought along that line. He is not only aggressive and thoroughly competent but is also courteous and obliging and is one of the most popular as well as one of the most successful business men of Decatur county.

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### MRS. MARIETTA WALKER.

Among the most highly honored citizens of Lamoni, Decatur county, is Mrs. Marietta Walker, who has achieved much as an educator and editor. She was in her maidenhood Miss Marietta Hodges and was born in Willoughby, Ohio, on the 10th of April,

1834, a daughter of Curtis and Lucy (Clark) Hodges, natives respectively of New York and Vermont. The paternal ancestors were English and those in the maternal line were Scotch. Mr. and Mrs. Hodges were married in the Green Mountain state and were en route from that state to Missouri when our subject was born in Ohio. When she was about five years of age the family were forced to leave their home farm in western Missouri, some fifty miles from Independence, which comprised three hundred and twenty acres of good land, because of sentiment adverse to the Church of Latter Day Saints. The father was wounded but succeeded in escaping to Illinois and settled first in Perry, Pike county, but later cast in his lot with the colony at Nauvoo, where his family joined him. In 1846, when Brigham Young came into the leadership of the church, Mr. Hodges and his family returned to Pennsylvania and there he passed away. Subsequently his widow and daughter Marietta went to St. Louis, Missouri, and later Mrs. Hodges removed to Indiana and resided with a son-in-law there.

Mrs. Walker was educated at the Oxford (Ohio) Female College, a famous school in that day, and was graduated therefrom in 1859. Subsequently her sister, Mrs. Lyons, died in San Antonio, Texas, leaving two daughters: Mrs. Lucy L. Resseguie, who has resided at Lamoni, Iowa, for several years past; and Mrs. Lida Atkinson, the widow of Colonel John Atkinson, of Detroit, Michigan. In order better to care for her sister's daughters, Mrs. Walker removed to San Antonio, Texas, and was for a number of years principal of the San Antonio Female College. Her influence as a teacher of young women was deep and lasting. She was married in 1861 to Robert Faulconer, who served in the Confederate army and died in the second year of the war, giving his life to the cause which he believed to be just. To that union was born a daughter, who is now Mrs. Lucy Faulconer, of Los Angeles, California.

In 1865 Mrs. Walker returned to the Prairie state and located at Sandwich and for some time made her home with her mother and brother-in-law, who had previously settled there. Later she was married to S. F. Walker and they eventually became residents of Lamoni, Decatur county, Iowa. Mrs. Walker's wide knowledge, practical wisdom and literary ability were utilized by the church of which she is a devoted member and for many years she edited the magazine *Autumn Leaves*, published at the Herald office, and she was likewise the editor of *Zion's Hope*, a Sunday-school paper. For more than twenty-five years she was connected with the publications of the church and only resigned the editorship of *Zion's Hope* when

she had reached the advanced age of eighty years. She is also the author of several books, including "The Church in an Early Day;" "The Indian Maiden," a temperance work; "Joan of Arc;" and "Fireside Talks with Our Girls." Shortly after the close of the Civil war and before beginning her work as an editor she was offered the presidency of her alma mater, the Oxford Female College at Oxford, Ohio, but refused to consider the position, as she had decided to give up educational work. She is still residing in her home in Lamoni, which is quite near the church and which was built by Mr. Walker about 1880. By her second marriage Mrs. Walker had two children. Mrs. Frances H. Davis is a widow living in Lamoni and has three sons: Walker C., who is in a bank in Oskaloosa; Dwight, of Lamoni; and Gerald Bruce, who is attending school in Marion, Iowa. Lois Sarah is the wife of A. L. Ackerley and is mentioned elsewhere in this work.

Through her connection with Autumn Leaves and Zion's Hope Mrs. Walker has become widely known throughout the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints and under her editorship the two papers gained a high rank among religious periodicals. They became factors of importance in binding together congregations in various localities and in increasing interest in church activities, and moreover the high moral tone which characterized them made them powerful agencies in the upbuilding of character. They also had literary merit and Mrs. Walker gained much praise for her able conduct of the periodicals. She has given the church an important place in her life and has been one of the most active members in the work of the local congregation as well as an important factor in the publication interests of the denomination. During the many years that she has lived at Lamoni she has enjoyed the respect of her fellow citizens and has many friends who are bound to her by strong ties of affection.

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### WILLIAM A. HOPKINS.

William A. Hopkins, who is president of the State Savings Bank of Lamoni, was born in Alameda county, California, on the 21st of June, 1867, a son of William and Elizabeth E. (Horner) Hopkins, both natives of Monmouth county, New Jersey. The father, who farmed in his native state, removed to California in 1851 and continued to follow agricultural pursuits there. In the spring of 1872,



WILLIAM A. HOPKINS





however, he returned east and settled in Decatur county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming until his demise, which occurred on the 1st of October, 1890. He was sixty-one years of age, as his birth occurred on the 16th of February, 1829. His wife, who was born October 22, 1826, is still living and is a member of the Latter Day Saints church, as was her husband. They were the parents of the following children. Alfred died in infancy. Clara A., born March 27, 1853, was married on the 28th of January, 1877, and passed away on the 9th of February, 1879. John F., born January 1, 1855, married Miss Ada A. Hudson. Joseph A., born August 22, 1860, was married on the 4th of March, 1880, to Miss Fannie L. Smith and died April 17, 1889. William A. is the subject of this review.

William A. Hopkins attended the district schools of Decatur county, being only five years of age when brought to this county by his parents, and he continued his studies in the Lamoni high school. When a boy he worked on the home farm and when seventeen years of age entered into partnership with his brother under the firm name of Hopkins Brothers, who were dealers in agricultural implements and furniture and also conducted an undertaking business. The partnership was dissolved in 1885 and our subject became a partner of J. O. Moon, the firm being Hopkins & Moon. That connection continued until 1886, when Mr. Moon sold his interest in the business to O. O. Hudson and from that time until 1893 the name was Hopkins & Hudson. This partnership being dissolved in 1893, Mr. Hopkins was alone in business until 1900, when he disposed of his furniture and undertaking establishment. In 1897 he organized the Lamoni Telephone Company and on the 1st of July of the following year organized the State Savings Bank of Lamoni, serving as cashier of that institution until 1912, when he was elected president. As executive head of the bank he has demonstrated his knowledge of business conditions and of sound principles of banking; and his judgment has been seldom if ever at fault. This financial concern now has over five hundred thousand dollars in assets, and larger deposits than any other bank in Decatur county. Mr. Hopkins also deals quite extensively in real estate and is president of the Lamoni Land & Loan Company. He likewise organized and is the president of the corporation which built the Lamoni Coliseum, of which the town is justly proud. As the first president of the Lamoni Commercial Club Mr. Hopkins has much to do with defining the field of work of that organization and in promoting a spirit of co-operation among its membership.

On the 7th of November, 1886, Mr. Hopkins married Miss Julia E. Clum, who was born on the 9th of June, 1867. Their children are:

Avis, who was born August 30, 1889, and was married on the 7th of August, 1912, to G. L. Smith; H. Horner, born November 7, 1894; and Viola L., whose natal day was the 2d of August, 1904.

Mr. Hopkins is staunch in his adherence to the republican party and takes great interest in matters pertaining to local government, although he has never desired to hold office. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Church of Latter Day Saints. His power of initiative, business ability and energy have been factors of importance in the upbuilding of Lamoni and he is highly respected and esteemed by his fellow citizens. In March, 1911, Mr. Hopkins assisted in organizing the St. Paul, Des Moines, St. Joseph & Interstate Trail Association, which established a route for automobilists and of which he is now the president.

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### JACOB RHODES.

Jacob Rhodes, a highly esteemed citizen of Bloomington township, who is now living retired upon his excellent farm in that township, was born February 11, 1836, in Highland county, Ohio, a son of Samuel and Catherine (Frumpt) Rhodes, natives respectively of Virginia and Delaware. The former died many years ago and the latter on the 28th of November, 1897. To their union were born the following children: Jacob, of this review, is the oldest of the family. Nancy passed away in Jackson county, Missouri. John died in Pike county, Ohio, in 1903. Harriet died in early womanhood. Lewis is farming in Bloomington township, this county. He enlisted in August, 1862, in Company G, Sixtieth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and after being discharged at Camp Denison reenlisted in August, 1863, in Company G, Thirty-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry. At the close of the war he was discharged at Camp Denison and remained there until 1871, when he came to Iowa. Seven years later he located in this county, where he has since resided. His political belief is that of the republican party. Margaret is the widow of Wilson Keeler and resides in Ross county, Ohio. Minerva, who is the widow of James Doran, is living at Beatrice, Nebraska. Ellen died in Illinois about two decades ago. Samuel lives in Ross county, Ohio. Cary is a resident of Bloomington township, this county.

Jacob Rhodes removed to Decatur county, Iowa, with his family in 1880 and settled in Bloomington township, where he is still living. He has devoted his time to farming and stock-raising and has gained

a competence which now enables him to live retired. While actively engaged in agricultural pursuits he was known as a progressive and energetic farmer and aided in raising the agricultural standards of his township.

Mr. Rhodes married Miss Jane Ellen Coder, of Highland county, Ohio, who, however, was born in Pike county, that state. Her birth occurred November 28, 1842, and she was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James K. Coder, representatives of old Ohio families who settled at Letts, Iowa, in 1864, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Rhodes was the second of nine children, six sons and three daughters, the others being: John, Newton, Thomas, Sarah, Frank, Lemuel, Allie and Charles. Only five of the family are still living. The demise of Mrs. Rhodes occurred in Decatur county, Iowa, in 1901. She was a member of the Adventist church, to which her husband likewise belongs. To their union were born three sons and four daughters, namely: Mrs. Maggie Fry, of Waterloo, Iowa; Rosa, who is at home with her father; Eva, who married W. W. Wiley, who is residing near Davis City; Charles T., a farmer of Bloomington township; William, who is living in Bloomington township; and who married Miss Helen Brown, a daughter of Clifton Brown, of Leon; and Iva and Frank, both deceased.

Mr. Rhodes is an active republican and has done much effective work in the party ranks. During the Civil war he was a member of a company raised in southern Ohio to oppose the advance of Morgan, the famous Confederate raider. He has at all times cooperated willingly in movements seeking the public welfare and has many staunch friends in Bloomington township, where he has resided for many years.

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### JOHN BURNETT.

John Burnett is a well-to-do agriculturist residing on his excellent farm near the line between Ringgold and Decatur counties. He was born in March, 1852, in Washington county, Iowa, a son of Reuben D. and Malinda (Smyth) Burnett, who removed to Iowa in 1845. They continued to reside in Washington county until 1853, when they came to Decatur county, the father entering land near Decatur City, upon which he lived until his death in April, 1877, when sixty-two years of age. His widow survived until 1903, passing away in Bloomington township when eighty years old. They were the

parents of eight children, namely: Sarah, the wife of Henry Forbes, a resident of Nebraska; William A., of Oberlin, Decatur county, Kansas; John; Ellen, who married John W. Bennett, of Idaho; Benjamin Franklin, who is also residing in the west; Alvira, the wife of Alex Heathman, a resident of Idaho; Mary Ann, the wife of J. H. Lighthill, who lives near Decatur City, this county; and Reuben B., a resident of St. Joseph, Missouri.

The ancestry of the Burnett family has been traced to seven brothers, Samuel, James, Robert, John S., William, Thomas and Henry, who in 1670 emigrated from Edinburgh, Scotland, and located at Norfolk, Virginia. William Burnett had a son, Robert, who was the father of John S. Burnett, one of the six hundred Virginia Buckskins that Washington commanded at Braddock's Defeat near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This John S. Burnett had a son Robert, who was a Revolutionary soldier and was with Washington when he crossed the Delaware. He in turn was the father of six sons, Samuel, Amor, Robert, Thomas, Henry and John S. Thomas and Henry Burnett fought in the War of 1812, volunteering from Pendleton county, Virginia. The family has always been characterized by public spirit and patriotism and its members have been influential and highly respected citizens of the various communities in which they have resided.

John Burnett was brought to this county when an infant and has continued to reside here, save for four years, which were spent in Ringgold county. He received his education in the public schools and during his boyhood and youth also became familiar with agricultural work. Since starting out on his independent career he has continued to follow the occupation to which he was reared and, although he had no capital when he began, he is now one of the well-to-do residents of his township. He owns one hundred and sixty acres of excellent land, eighty acres thereof lying on section 6, Fayette township, this county, and eighty acres in Ringgold county. He has made all of the improvements upon his place and it is well equipped for twentieth century farming. He grows the usual crops and also raises stock and derives a gratifying annual income from his work.

Mr. Burnett was married at Decatur City to Miss Susan McKee, who was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, in 1848, of the marriage of John and Mary A. (Bain) McKee, who removed with their family to this county about 1855. Mr. and Mrs. Burnett became the parents of two children, both of whom are deceased. Alva died in infancy and Elma Alice died on the 27th of March, 1901, when she was twenty-five years of age.



Mr. Burnett is a democrat and has served in most of the local offices. For twenty years he has been treasurer of the school district and during that time has carefully safeguarded the interests of the public schools. His wife belongs to the Christian church. Both are highly esteemed in this county and those who know them most intimately are their staunchest friends, which indicates the rectitude and uprightness of their lives.

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### ELI CRAIG.

Pleasanton has among her citizens many retired farmers who have contributed much to the welfare of the town. Eli Craig was for many years actively engaged in agricultural pursuits but is now residing here and is enjoying a leisure earned by former toil. He was born in Henry county, Indiana, September 22, 1841, of the marriage of Andrew and Mary (Heston) Craig, natives respectively of North Carolina and of Indiana. When but twelve years of age the father was taken to the Hoosier state by his parents and upon reaching years of maturity entered land there, which he operated until October, 1859. In that year he sold out and went with his family to Harrison county, Missouri. He purchased land just over the line in Mercer county and resided upon that place until called by death, Christmas Day, 1890. During the Civil war he served in the militia for about two years. His widow survived him exactly four years, dying on the 25th of December, 1894.

Eli Craig was reared in Indiana and there attended the public schools. He was eighteen years of age when the family removed to Missouri and he aided with the work of the farm until August, 1862, when he enlisted for service in the Civil war in Company K, Forty-second Missouri Volunteer Infantry. After the cessation of hostilities he returned to Missouri and rented land in Harrison county, which he operated for twenty years. At the end of that time he purchased one hundred and three acres in Mercer county, Missouri, to the cultivation of which he devoted his time and energies until 1901. In that year he rented his farm and went to Woodward county, Oklahoma, where he filed on a claim. After proving up upon his land he improved and cultivated it for nine years, but at the end of that time retired from active work and removed to Pleasanton, Decatur county, Iowa. In 1911 he purchased a good residence here, where he has since lived.



Mr. Craig was married on the 4th of January, 1862, to Miss Sarah E. Brunton, a daughter of Cyrus and Martha (Ristine) Brunton, natives respectively of Illinois and Indiana. The family removed to Harrison county, Missouri, in 1855 and there her father rented land, which he operated until his demise in 1897. He survived his wife for many years, as she passed away in 1852. Mr. and Mrs. Craig have become the parents of nine children: W. Alexander, who is farming in Mercer county, Missouri; A. L., who is farming in Hamilton township, Decatur county, Iowa; Annie, the wife of Ervin Thomason, of Dayton, Washington; Minnie, who married Noah Carrington, of Pleasanton; Nora, the wife of D. M. Holmes, who lives in Linn county, Missouri; Ona, at home; and three who died in infancy.

Mr. Craig is a republican but has never desired public office as a reward for his party fealty. His church membership is held in the Baptist church and he is in sympathy with the varied lines of work of that organization. Through his affiliation with the Grand Army of the Republic he keeps in touch with others who went to the defense of the Union, and he finds much pleasure in that association.

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### STEPHEN WHITE HURST.

Stephen White Hurst was for forty-five years a citizen of Leon and during that time was one of the most forceful factors in the up-building of the city and of Decatur county. His influence was not only felt in business circles, where he was recognized as a leader, but was also of moment in the financial and civic life of the county. He was born in Dorchester county, Maryland, on the 21st of July, 1836, a son of the Rev. Stephen Hurst, who was a Methodist minister. The family home was on a farm four miles from Cambridge, Maryland, and the father owned slaves, although it was his rule to liberate them when they reached the age of twenty-eight years. He passed away when his son, Stephen White Hurst, was but ten years of age and his widow subsequently removed with her children to Cambridge. The Hurst family is a prominent one in Maryland and its members have been called the "merchant princes of the eastern shore." A brother of our subject, John E. Hurst, who preceded him a few years in death, was a prominent wholesale dry-goods merchant of Baltimore, Maryland, and a cousin, the late Bishop John F. Hurst, of Washington, D. C., was one of the most famous of the Methodist bishops.

Stephen White Hurst was educated in Cambridge Academy and when eighteen years of age went to Baltimore, where he secured a position as clerk in a store. He remained in that city for two years and gained experience in the mercantile business which proved of value to him later and which decided him to devote his life to merchandising. The year 1856 witnessed his first journey westward but after spending the summer in Blakesburg, Iowa, he returned to Baltimore. However, he was much impressed with the spirit of enterprise in the western country and believed thoroughly in its future greatness and in the following year he returned to Blakesburg and in partnership with his cousin, Samuel J. Hurst, engaged in the general mercantile business there. In 1861 they sold out their business in Blakesburg and our subject located at Leon while Samuel J. Hurst settled at Corydon. Mr. Hurst of this review opened a general store in a little frame building on the present site of the Leon post-office. Two years later he leased the first brick store building ever erected in the city and removed his stock of goods there. He prospered and his store became the leading one in the county. In 1875 he erected a brick business block on the west side of the square, which is still the home of the store. He continued in active control of his business interests until 1883, when he retired, selling out to Hurst, Hawkins & Conrey, his eldest son, George E. Hurst, becoming the senior member. There have been a number of changes in the ownership of the business and it is now conducted under the name of J. W. Hurst & Company.

Stephen White Hurst had a thorough understanding of the principles that underlie all successful business activity and was expert in applying those principles to the particular conditions existing in the communities in which he lived. He always endeavored to meet the needs and wants of his customers fully and to serve them in the best way possible, believing that all enduring prosperity is based on honorable methods and the giving of good value for money received. He was characterized by sane progressiveness and made a number of innovations in the conduct of his business which time and experience justified as wise and prudent. His stock was large and well selected and the reputation which the store gained as the leading one of its kind in the county was well deserved and was due to the time and thought which Mr. Hurst gave to the management of his business affairs.

Although he disposed of his interest in the store in 1883 his restless energy would not permit him to remain idle and two years later he organized the Exchange Bank of Leon, of which he served as

president for fifteen years, or until 1900, when he sold his stock in the institution and retired from active life. He achieved much more than average success in the mercantile and financial worlds but his interests in those circles did not require his entire time and attention and he was also a force in political and civic affairs. He was a deep thinker and read widely, keeping in close touch with all important events. His careful study of the political situation led him to support the democratic party and he never wavered in his allegiance to that organization, believing even in times of defeat in the eventual triumph of its principles. He was a very effective worker in the party ranks and in many local and state campaigns his influence was a potent force in securing victory for his party. He was often a delegate to state and national conventions and his advice was more than once sought by the men highest in authority. A number of times he was county chairman and he was one of the acknowledged leaders of his party in this section of the state. Although he did so much to further the interests of the democratic party he was never actuated by a desire for personal gain therefrom and never held office with the exception of four years that he was postmaster of Blakesburg. He performed the duties devolving upon him in that capacity in a manner acceptable to his fellow citizens and highly creditable to himself.

In 1889 Governor Larrabee appointed him as commissioner from the state of Iowa to the exposition at Paris, France. A wiser choice could not have been made and he served his state with distinction, spending several months in Paris looking after the interests intrusted to his care. Before returning home he traveled in Europe for a number of months and made a careful study of the customs and conditions in those countries. His report as commissioner was one of the best ever made in Iowa.

On the 26th of April, 1860, Mr. Hurst married Miss Frances Arnold, who was born in Greencastle, Indiana, in 1839, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Arnold. The father was born at Frankfort, Kentucky, and after his removal to Indiana followed agricultural pursuits. In 1846 he removed with his family to Monroe county, Iowa, crossing the Mississippi river at Warsaw, and entered land in that county, filing a claim at Sioux City. His wife, who was in her maidenhood Miss Margaret Robinson, lived to an advanced age, dying when in her ninety-second year at the old home in Monroe county. Mr. Arnold passed away when sixty-eight years of age. To their union were born eight children, two of whom are now living: Mrs. Hurst; and a brother, who is residing at Albia, Iowa, at the age of

eighty-one years. Mrs. Hurst was reared in Monroe county, Iowa, and educated in the Albia high school and her marriage occurred in Monroe county. Her religious belief is that of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which she is a devout member. She also holds membership in the Eastern Star and takes much interest in the work of that organization.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hurst were born the following children: Stephen Lewis died in 1879. George E. passed away in September, 1912, at Leon, leaving two sons and two daughters. His wife died in 1897 and the younger daughter is with her grandmother, Mrs. Hurst. The older daughter is married and resides at Ann Arbor, Michigan, while both of the sons live at Bay City, that state. Charles E. is engaged in the insurance business in Leon. James W. and John F. conduct the business established by their father under the name of J. W. Hurst & Company. Margaret L., the youngest of the family, is a schoolteacher by profession.

Mr. Hurst regularly attended the Methodist church and gave liberally toward its support, although not a member thereof. He strove in all humility to lead a life in accordance with the teachings of Christianity and the sterling worth of his character commanded the respect of all who came in contact with him. One of his most salient characteristics was his devotion to his family and he found his greatest pleasure in serving them. He entertained a great affection not only for those of his immediate family but for more distant relatives, especially his cousins, the late Bishop Hurst, of Washington, D. C., and Samuel J. Hurst, of Kansas City, with whom, as has been stated, he was at one time associated in business. For forty years he was a member of the local Masonic lodge and was a Mason in deed as well as in name, embodying in his life the principles of that order. His friends were legion and his beautiful residence in Leon, which he himself erected, was noted for its warm-hearted and sincere hospitality.

Mr. Hurst was one of the real builders of the commercial prosperity of Leon, was one of the most substantial men of the city and at the same time one of the most public-spirited, being at all times ready not only to give of his money but also of his time and energy to the advancement of the common good and it was but fitting that all business in the city should be suspended during his funeral services. He was a man of splendid physique and until within a very short time of his death enjoyed exceptionally good health, so that his demise, which occurred on the 12th of June, 1907, came as a shock to his friends. He had intended going to the Jamestown Exposition



and then paying a visit to his old home in Dorchester county, Maryland, and was looking forward with much pleasure to the visit, but Providence ruled otherwise and he was called to the Great Beyond at the age of seventy years, ten months and eleven days.

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### L. G. JAMISON.

L. G. Jamison, a well known farmer living in Franklin township, has always given much attention to the dairy business and now has a herd of twenty-five registered Jersey cows. He was born in Washington county, Indiana, on the 29th of March, 1848, a son of Robert and Christina (Kyte) Jamison. The father was born in Logan county, Kentucky, but was taken by his parents to Indiana when six years of age. He was a farmer by occupation and removed with his family to Monroe county, Iowa, in 1848. In 1850 he located in Clarke county, entering one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government. He was a man of unusual force of character and made a place of influence for himself among the early settlers of that county. His wife was born in Washington county, Indiana, and died in 1897, when seventy-nine years of age. They were the parents of nine children, namely: John H., deceased; L. G.; Frank M., who is living in Osceola; William Winfield, who died in 1854; Catherine E., who died in 1881, when twenty-eight years of age; Mary Elizabeth, who was born in 1855 and who died in 1885; Rebecca, who was born in 1857 and who died in 1885; James Harvey, born in 1859, who is now residing in Des Moines and who is president of the Western Life Insurance Company; and Thomas Benton, whose birth occurred in July, 1862, and who farms the old homestead.

L. G. Jamison attended the Garden Grove schools and supplemented the education so acquired by study in the Bryant & Stratton Commercial College at Burlington, from which he was graduated. For a number of years he taught school in Clarke county and was then engaged in mercantile pursuits for seven years, but during the greater part of his life he has been engaged in agricultural work. He has found dairying very profitable and now has a splendid herd of twenty-five registered Jersey cows.

On the 16th of May, 1878, Mr. Jamison was married to Miss Sarah Luella Jenison, who was born in Ripley county, Indiana, in 1857, the only child of John C. Jenison. Her father was a farmer by occupation and was well known and highly esteemed in his com-



munity. He passed away January 16, 1910, when seventy-six years of age, and is survived by his widow, who has reached the venerable age of eighty-five years. Mr. and Mrs. Jamison are the parents of a son, Oliver Perry, whose birth occurred on the 14th of April, 1879. He was graduated from the Weldon high school at the early age of fifteen years and subsequently attended Parson's College at Fairfield, Iowa, for one year, later was a student in Drake University for three years and for a similar period of time studied in the Keokuk Medical College, from which he was graduated April 26, 1905, with the degree of M. D. He also has a diploma for special work done in the study of diseases of the eye, ear and nose and he likewise has a diploma in pharmacy. He is located in Weldon and has won an enviable reputation as a physician and surgeon. He devotes considerable attention to surgery and has successfully performed many difficult operations. He is a prominent member of the medical society and is highly respected by his colleagues in the profession.

Mr. Jamison attends the Methodist Episcopal church and contributes to the support of the work of that organization. His political belief is that of the republican party and for twenty-five years he has served acceptably as justice of the peace. The competence which he enjoys has been worthily won and in promoting his own interests he has also advanced the development of his township along the lines of agriculture and dairying.

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### S. F. WALKER.

S. F. Walker was for four years editor of the Lamoni Gazette and a members of the firm of Walker & Hansen, owners and publishers of that paper. He was also known as an author of considerable repute and was a highly esteemed citizen of Decatur county. His birth occurred in Ohio in 1831, although his father was born in New Hampshire and his mother in England. The maternal grandfather at one time owned a farm which is now a part of Cincinnati and the parents of our subject settled there when there was but one brick house in that city. They subsequently removed to a farm twenty miles up the Ohio river and there the maternal grandfather laid out the town of New Richmond, where the birth of our subject occurred.

In his youth S. F. Walker attended the common schools and Clermont Academy but in 1850, when nineteen years of age, he came west, continuing on his way until he reached the mouth of the

Kansas river. That region of the country was then inhabited by Indians and much of the west had not yet been settled by whites. Returning eastward, Mr. Walker went up the Illinois river to La Salle, thence by stage to Chicago and from that city made the journey to Kalamazoo, Michigan, in a farm wagon. Some time later he went by way of the great lakes to Buffalo and on to Utica, New York, where he was employed in a carriage shop for one year. In the winter of 1850-1 he attended Central College at McGrawville, New York, and later in 1851 he was engaged in engineering work on the Mississippi river. In 1882 he was a student at the Ohio Wesleyan University and after leaving that institution taught school for a time near New Richmond. However, his adventurous spirit prompted him to try his fortune elsewhere and in the spring of 1853 he went to California by way of the Isthmus of Panama and for several years was in the deep mines of Sierra county, that state. For some time he was foreman of the Pioneer Company which by means of a high flume succeeded in getting water to Illinois Ridge and which tunneled the famous peaks of that locality. Mr. Walker was a candidate for the legislature on the first republican ticket ever nominated in Sierra county, California, and was quite active in political circles. In 1857 he caught the Fraser river craze and in 1859 he mined in the Comstock mines at Gold Hill, Nevada. In that region the deposits were so easily accessible that all of the mining was done from the surface and by hand, without the use of expensive machinery. He returned to California and later recrossed the Sierras on snowshoes and helped to establish Methodism in Virginia City, Nevada. In 1861 he returned east by the overland route, stopping eleven days at Salt Lake City. After spending a few weeks in Ohio he again journeyed westward, joining an immigrant train at Council Bluffs, Iowa, with which he went to the territory of Montana. At that time there were no white settlers there and he continued through Idaho to Portland, Oregon, and then made his way south to San Francisco. He again went to Nevada and in 1863 was at Austin, that state, while the following year he was at Smoky Valley, where he owned a ranch and engaged in raising hay and cattle. In 1869 he visited Plano, Illinois, and while there became a member of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints. In that year he was married and not long afterward he settled at Blue Springs ranch, Nye county, Nevada, where he lived until 1878. He then made his way eastward and located on a farm near the present site of Lamoni. He followed agricultural pursuits until 1884, when he removed to the town of Lamoni. In the fall of the following year he aided in establishing the Lamoni

Gazette, which was owned and published by the firm of Walker & Hansen. Mr. Walker served as the editor of the paper until his death, which occurred on the 1st of April, 1889. He was also for a time a writer for the Herald, the official organ for the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints. He was known as an able editor and the Lamoni Gazette gained a large circulation in this part of the state and was justly regarded as one of the excellent smaller papers of Iowa. Mr. Walker also found other expression for his literary ability, as he was the author of "Ruins Revisited" and "The World-Story Retold." At the time of his death he was engaged in writing a poem entitled "The Spoilers of Jerusalem."

In 1869, at Sandwich, Illinois, Mr. Walker married Mrs. Marietta Faulconer. His widow survives at the advanced age of eighty years and is acknowledged as a woman of unusually fine character and of marked literary ability.

Mr. Walker was a republican and remained loyal to that party until his death. His was a life full of change and incident and of tireless activity and much of his success as an editor was due to his wide experience and his restless energy, which always prompted him to better his past achievements if possible. Although more than a quarter of a century has passed since he was called to his reward there are many who still cherish his memory.

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#### O. M. REW.

O. M. Rew has made many improvements upon his farm of two hundred and forty acres on sections 7, 17 and 18, Fayette township, and has gained a reputation as a progressive and efficient agriculturist. He was born January 4, 1867, near Oregon Springs, Utah, a son of Sylvester and Elizabeth (Sylvester) Rew, both natives of Pennsylvania, the former born in Titusville. The father was of Scotch-Irish descent and the mother of German lineage. They were married in 1857 and went with an emigrant train to Utah but subsequently returned east and after residing in Wisconsin for seven years took up their residence in Fayette township, Decatur county, Iowa. Two years later they purchased a farm in that township and there the father died in July, 1896, when sixty-seven years of age. He engaged in teaching to some extent but devoted the greater part of his life to farming and was very successful in that occupation. He was a member of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints and

took an active part in its work. His wife is still living at Lamoni, at the age of seventy-three years, and is also a member of that church. Her mother recently died at the remarkable age of one hundred years. To Mr. and Mrs. Rew were born twelve children, as follows: Charles, of Lamoni; William, a resident of Oklahoma; Vet, deceased; O. M.; Mrs. Abbie Cooper, who resides in Nebraska; Mrs. Jessie Lafaunce, of Chicago; Mrs. Mamie Glenney, a resident of Nebraska; Arthur, who is living in Lamoni; Peter, who resides near that city; Lewis, also of Lamoni; Roy, whose home is in Nebraska; and Eddie, deceased.

O. M. Rew was reared and attended school in Wisconsin and Iowa but when but ten or twelve years of age put aside his textbooks and gave his father his entire time. He continued to reside under the parental roof until he was twenty-two years of age, after which he engaged in farming independently in this county for two years. At the end of that time he went to Nebraska, where he resided for four years, and on returning to this county he rented land in Fayette township. In 1901 he purchased his first land, an eighty acre tract, and took up his residence thereon. He has since bought one hundred and sixty acres additional and owns and operates a fine home farm of two hundred and forty acres on sections 7, 17 and 18, Fayette township. He is energetic and progressive and uses the most advanced methods and the latest machinery in the work of cultivating the fields.

In December, 1889, Mr. Rew married Miss Janie Johnson, who was born in Crawford county, Iowa, in 1869, of the marriage of George and Louisa Johnson, who about 1879 removed with their family to Decatur county. The father has passed away but the mother is living in Nebraska. They reared twelve children, of whom ten survive. Mr. and Mrs. Rew have become the parents of twelve children, namely: Claude, a farmer of Bloomington township, who married Miss Daisy Smith, by whom he has one living child; Ada, the wife of Ray Hubbard, a resident of Colorado; Ralph, who is homesteading land in that state; Elzie, at home; Harold, a farmer of Fayette township, who married Miss Elsie Kinder, by whom he has one child; and Minnie, Harvey, Osmer, Wayne, Vera, Gladys and Ruby, all at home.

Mr. Rew is a democrat and is stanch in his support of the principles and candidates of that party. Fraternally he is quite well known, belonging to the local organizations of the Knights of Pythias, the Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. Both he and his wife are members of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day



Saints and they take a helpful interest in its work. From boyhood Mr. Rew has been an indefatigable worker and his present prosperity is due to his own industry and good management. His business dealings have always been straightforward and honorable and he holds the respect and good will of all who have come in contact with him.

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### GEORGE O. JOHNSTON.

George O. Johnston, of Richland township, has served as a teacher in the rural schools of Decatur county for twenty-seven years, a record not equalled by any other teacher of the county. He is widely known and holds a high place in the estimation of his fellow citizens. His birth occurred in Coshocton county, Ohio, March 25, 1859, and he is a son of Peter and Susan (Pigman) Johnston. His father was born in Glasgow, Scotland, but in 1841 emigrated to the United States, making his way to Coshocton county, Ohio, where he followed agricultural pursuits. He gained financial prosperity and was also quite influential in public affairs. His political belief was that of the republican party and he held membership in the Baptist church. During the Civil war he served in the Fifty-first Iowa Infantry and was at the front for four years, participating in a number of important battles. His colonel was Judge Stanley Matthews, of Cincinnati. Mr. Johnston died in 1880 when fifty-two years of age. His wife was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, a daughter of John and Rebecca Pigman, natives respectively of Connecticut and of Coshocton county, Ohio. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Johnston was celebrated on the 16th of March, 1858. Twenty-one years later she passed away at the age of forty-two. To their union were born six children: George O.; James Riley, who died in 1878; Rachel Luella, the wife of Tully Moorman, a resident of Ashland county, Ohio; Gilbert H., who is living in Davis City, this county; Cora May, who became the wife of William Thomas, of Ashland, Ohio, and who was called to her last rest in 1910; and David L.

George O. Johnston passed the days of his boyhood and youth upon the home farm and attended the district schools in the pursuit of his education. In 1886 he removed to Decatur county, Iowa, and for four months was employed upon a farm. At the end of that time he began teaching in Iowa county but in the spring of 1887 returned to Decatur county, where he has since taught for twenty-seven years. He has taught in eleven townships of this county and



for one year taught in Ringgold county. He is a very enthusiastic worker, taking commendable pride in his excellent record as a teacher, and expects to continue in the profession until he has taught for three decades. He has found much pleasure in his work and derives satisfaction from the knowledge that he is serving his community well in instructing its boys and girls, in guiding their mental development and in aiding them to form habits of industry and accuracy.

On the 20th of March, 1887, Mr. Johnston married Miss Lydia A. McMorris, who was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, in 1868 and came to Decatur county, Iowa, in 1880, with her mother, the family settling on a farm south of Leon. Mr. and Mrs. Johnston have a daughter, Nora, who was born in Eden township, November 26, 1892, and is engaged in teaching.

Mr. Johnston is a republican but has never taken an active part in politics. He has served as clerk of Eden township and as secretary of the school board. Both he and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is a deacon, and they take a prominent part in the work of that organization. They are highly respected by all who know them.

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### MALAY McDONALD.

Malay McDonald, who was one of the most prominent and influential of the early settlers of Bloomington township, was at one time the owner of one thousand acres of fine land. His birth occurred in Madison county, Ohio, on the 16th of May, 1823, and he was a son of James C. McDonald, who was in turn a son of Thomas McDonald. The last named was born in Scotland and on emigrating to the United States settled in Botetourt county, Virginia, where his son James C. was born. The latter was married in Tennessee to Miss Mary Ann Melvin, also a native of the Old Dominion, and they took up their residence in Kentucky, whence, about 1806, they removed to Ross county, Ohio. Three or four years later they settled in Madison county, that state, where they lived for many years. They had a large family, of whom seven grew to maturity.

Malay McDonald, who was the youngest child, was educated in the subscription schools in Madison county and early in life became familiar with agricultural pursuits. He continued to reside in his native county until 1850, when, with his family, he removed to Iowa. The first winter was spent at Muscatine, but in the following spring

the family removed to a farm, where they resided for four years. On the 22d of May, 1855, they arrived in Bloomington township, Decatur county, and the father purchased several hundred acres of land from Matthew McClain. At that time there were only about seven families in that township and the greater part of the land was yet unbroken. Mr. McDonald acquired more land and accumulated altogether about one thousand acres, upon which he engaged in stock-raising and feeding on an extensive scale. He owned a fine farm adjoining Kellerton and at length he took up his abode in that town. He passed away September 8, 1895, and his demise was sincerely regretted by all who knew him.

Mr. McDonald was married on the 9th of March, 1843, to Miss Mary Ferguson, whose birth occurred in Franklin county, Ohio, on the 13th of November, 1824, and who is a daughter of Thomas and Mary (Biggert) Ferguson. To this union were born the following children: Margaret Ann; George, who was a soldier in the Civil war and who died while at home on furlough from the effects of a wound received in battle; E. W.; and one who died in infancy. Mr. McDonald was an independent republican and served for one term as county supervisor and for three terms as township trustee and assessor. He belonged to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Decatur City. He was a man of much force of character and energy and also possessed excellent business ability, and it was but natural that he should be one of the foremost citizens of Decatur county. After removing to Kellerton he was recognized as one of the leaders in Ringgold county and his death was the occasion of much sincere grief.

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### HON. ELIJAH BANTA.

Although Hon. Elijah Banta of Lamoni passed away in 1889, there are many who remember him well and the influence of his life is still felt in Decatur county. He was for one term a representative in the state legislature of Iowa and was prominent in local political affairs. He was born in Shelby county, Kentucky, of Holland Dutch descent, on the 5th of January, 1823, a son of Peter A. and Mary (Voorhies) Banta, natives of Ohio. The mother died in 1828 and on the 29th of November, of the following year, the father removed with his family to Johnson county, Indiana, where he followed agricultural pursuits until his demise in 1851.

Elijah Banta was the ninth in order of birth in a family of ten children who grew to maturity, six boys and four girls. He grew to manhood in Johnson county, Indiana, but was married in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, October 6, 1846. A year or two following his marriage he returned to Johnson county, Indiana, and remained there until 1865. In 1864 he was elected to the general assembly of Indiana on the republican ticket and was the first republican elected from his district to the legislature. Moreover when elected county auditor he was the first successful republican candidate. In the spring of 1865 he removed to Sandwich, Illinois, leaving Indiana one year before his term in the legislature expired. He resided at Sandwich until he came to Decatur county, Iowa, where he continued to live until his demise. He was the first president and manager of the Colonization Society, which was incorporated in 1871, and in the fall of that year he visited Decatur county, Iowa, with the late David Dancer and I. L. Rogers. The three men were agents for the First United Order of Enoch and purchased thirty-three hundred acres of land in Decatur county, the object being the founding of a colony of Latter Day Saints. In 1872 members of that church began to settle upon the tract of land purchased by Mr. Banta, Mr. Dancer and Mr. Rogers, and the colony soon became an important factor in the life of Decatur county. The further history of the development of the settlement is given in the historical volume of this work. Mr. Banta erected a number of houses on the company's lands and remained in charge of the interests of the company as president until 1876, when he was succeeded by David Dancer. Mr. Banta became the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres on section 12, Fayette township, which he cultivated and improved and on which he resided until 1882. He then built a fine residence in Lamoni, which is now the Children's Home, and continued to live there until his demise. He also owned a stock farm comprising eight hundred acres in New Buda township and was one of the men of wealth of Lamoni.

Not long after his removal to Decatur county Mr. Banta became recognized as an important factor in local political circles and in 1872 took an active part in the campaign as a liberal republican, supporting Horace Greeley for president. In 1876, however, he avowed himself a democrat and in that campaign supported Tilden and Hendricks. Without his consent or knowledge he was nominated by the greenback party for the office of county supervisor and, as this nomination was indorsed by the democrats, he was elected by a fair majority, running ahead of the state ticket. Although he was not in full accord with the liquor policy of the democratic party, which

had not then adopted the local option plank, in 1883 Mr. Banta was nominated as the democratic candidate for state representative. He was elected to that office, leading the state ticket in Decatur county by one hundred and eighty-nine votes. Upon the expiration of his term he wished to retire from political life, but against his will was almost elected mayor of Lamoni in March, 1886. In all of his public service he placed the general welfare before personal aggrandizement and his record was highly creditable.

Mr. Banta was married in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, on the 6th of October, 1846, to Miss Emeline Campbell, a sister of Mrs. Marietta Walker, of Lamoni, mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work. Mrs. Banta passed away in Decatur county on the 14th of May, 1876, when forty-nine years of age. On the 29th of November, 1877, Mr. Banta married Miss Hattie E. Crosby, who was then living near Chatfield, Minnesota, although she was born in the state of New York. They became the parents of four children, as follows: William Elijah died when nine months old. Mary Crosby is residing in Lamoni. Ethel Margaret is a critic and training teacher for kindergarteners in the State Normal School at Moorehead, Minnesota. Albert Jefferds, a graduate of the State University of Iowa, is a civil engineer residing at Houston, Texas. He married Miss Jessie Pitkin, of Lamoni, Iowa, and they have two sons, Albert Maurice and William.

Mr. Banta was one of the most prominent and influential members of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints in this part of Iowa and for years was treasurer of the board of publication of the Saints' Herald. He also held the office of bishop's counselor and the work of the church felt the impetus of his enthusiasm and intense interest in everything pertaining to moral advancement. As an agriculturist and business man he was very successful, as a man of public affairs he was characterized by devotion to the welfare of the people and by sound judgment, and in the private relations of life he manifested traits of character that endeared him to those who knew him intimately.

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### WILLIAM BIGGS.

Among the prominent citizens of Leon is William Biggs, retired farmer, merchant and minister of the gospel. His birth occurred in Licking county, Ohio, May 24, 1844, and he is a son of James W. and



Susan Ann (Stewart) Biggs, the latter being a descendant of the royal house of Stewarts of Scotland. The birth of the father occurred on the 15th of January, 1814, in Fauquier county, Virginia, and there the mother was born on the 7th of April, 1809. The paternal grandfather of our subject, James Biggs, was born in England but soon after the Revolutionary war emigrated to America and settled in Fauquier county, Virginia. His brother, William Biggs, who also lived in Virginia for some time, returned to England and is thought to have left a large estate there.

The marriage of James W. Biggs and Susan Ann Stewart was solemnized in Fauquier county, Virginia, on the 24th of February, 1834. Subsequently they removed to Licking county, Ohio, where Mr. Biggs engaged in farming and preaching, being a minister of the Primitive Baptist church, serving without compensation. He passed away at his home on the 14th of May, 1862, but was survived by his widow until November 20, 1893. They were well known among the pioneers of central Ohio and were highly esteemed and respected. To their union were born seven children: Lucy A., who has passed away; Rebecca, residing at Pleasanton, Iowa; William; Phylena, deceased; James, a resident of Marion county, Ohio; and Mary E. and Sarah C., both of whom are deceased.

William Biggs attended the public schools in his native county and received a good education. He at one time thought of fitting himself for teaching, but as his father died when he was but eighteen years of age it was necessary for him to give up that plan. He remained at home with his mother and had charge of the farm of ninety-four acres, about half of which was under cultivation when his father died. It being timber land there was a large sugar camp of hard maple trees which was used to supply sugar and molasses for the family. There was an abundance of fruit on the farm and with the practical application of mind and muscle there was a good living provided on this small piece of land for the family. When in his twenty-first year he left home and came to Iowa to visit a sister. He met Miss Caroline Clark, and after a brief courtship they were engaged to be married.

Mr. Biggs left Decatur county and during the summer of 1865 lived in Des Moines. Returning in November he was married on the 30th of that month to Miss Caroline Clark, daughter of John and Margaret Clark of Morgan township, Decatur county. This marriage was solemnized at Leon, Iowa, by Elder J. C. Porter, of the Christian church, in the old Brown Hotel. As life in a new country did not suit Mr. Biggs he took his bride to Ohio, but her parents



desired to have her closer to them and offered to give the young couple eighty acres of land just north of the Clark homestead if they would return. In 1866 Mr. Biggs came again to this county and lived for a time with the parents of Mrs. Biggs. He worked in the woolen mill operated by his father-in-law. There were four children born to Mr. and Mrs. Biggs: Edmond, who resides in Leon, Iowa; Cora Biggs Custer, who resides in Bethany, Missouri; Nora, who resides in Los Angeles, California; Dora, who died aged two months and twenty-one days.

In the fall of 1866 Mr. Biggs erected a three room house on his eighty acres and began clearing his land. He also purchased ten acres of white oak timber land and personally split from six to seven thousand rails, which he had to haul home three miles. With these rails he fenced his land and in time his place was well improved and under cultivation. For a number of years he rented land from his father-in-law, which he farmed, and in the meantime cleared and developed his own place. Subsequently he purchased another eighty acres of land adjoining, and with the aid of his son Edward began stock-raising extensively, but poor health made it necessary for him to give up farming. In 1889 he purchased thirty-nine acres adjoining the town of Leon, which he improved and upon which he located. In 1899 he bought and built his present residence in Leon. Since giving up agricultural pursuits he has concentrated his attention largely upon the work of the ministry, having made a confession of his faith in Christ when he was twenty-three years old. He belongs to the Primitive Baptist church and has preached over a large section of country and without receiving any salary. He has an extensive Bible reference library and is recognized as a thorough student of the Bible and a deep thinker along religious lines. He has made a careful study of theology and is a contributor to the *Messenger of Peace*, published at St. Joseph, Missouri, and *Spiritual Law Counsel*, published at Salem, Virginia.

Mr. Biggs has had much to do with the commercial and financial growth of Leon and everything he has undertaken has prospered. In 1895 he erected a two story brick building upon a lot which Mrs. Biggs owned on the north side of the public square and opened a general store known as C. Biggs & Company, with G. W. Custer as general manager, who three years later was succeeded by Mr. Biggs' son Edward as manager.

In 1899 Mr. Biggs purchased a lot on the northwest corner of the square and erected a fine two story brick building, fifty by ninety feet in dimensions, and the following year the store was moved to that

building. In 1909 the business was sold to Wasson & Company, who sold to F. N. Hansell, who still rents the building from Mr. Biggs. In 1907 Mr. Biggs built adjoining this structure a building fifty by ninety feet, now occupied by the Stewart Furniture & Undertaking Company. Mr. Biggs owned a lot on Commercial street in Leon, and the city being in need of water for public use, he hired a well driller and drilled to the sandstone formation over eight hundred feet, at a cost of over two thousand dollars, and got an abundance of water. He sold one-half interest to Mr. Dorn of Leon and they dug a cistern sixteen by thirty feet, installed a pressure tank, then Mr. Biggs sold all of his interest to Mr. Dorn at a loss of about fifty per cent of the cost, which was about three thousand six hundred dollars, including the cost of the lot. The city purchased the lot and drilled a larger well, which affords an abundance of the best water. What Mr. Biggs lost the city gained.

In 1911 Mr. Biggs went to California purchased a lot fifty-three by one hundred and fifty-two feet in Los Angeles, and erected a two-story flat thereon, where he and his family live when in the Golden state. In 1914 he erected an apartment house containing six suites on the same lot.

In the late '90s Mr. Biggs sold out his entire interests in Morgan township and invested in farm land on the Leon and Davis City road, three miles from Leon. In 1895 his wife fell heir to her father's estate and the money which she received was invested in mercantile business and in one hundred and twenty acres of land in Center township, adjoining the corporation of Leon. In the fight to remove the county seat of Decatur county from Leon to Decatur city, Mr. Biggs took an active part in the contest, was influential in retaining the county seat for Leon and was the originator of the movement to build the fine new courthouse.

In his political belief he is independent, voting according to the dictates of his judgment rather than at the behest of a party leader. He has accomplished much in his life along material lines and is one of the prominent men of Decatur county, while his activities have also resulted in the growth and development of Leon.

He has also achieved much as a minister of the gospel and his work has been a potent force in the building up of the kingdom of Christ. His has been indeed a well balanced life and financial success has gone hand in hand with religious zeal and loyalty to the teachings of Christ and Christianity.

This sketch will not be complete without mentioning Mrs. Biggs as a true helpmate in doing her part faithfully during almost fifty

years of their married life. The reader should read the thirty-first chapter of Proverbs, beginning at the tenth verse to the close of the chapter. This teaches the possibility of a true woman. Also the first Psalm tells us of the possibilities of a man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly. Mr. Biggs has never joined any secret order, as he believes he is under obligations to be just and fair to all men without respect of persons. The only protection is in the God that he serves.

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### CAPTAIN JEFFERSON MILLER.

Captain Jefferson Miller devoted his life to agricultural pursuits and won a gratifying measure of prosperity. He was born in Indiana on the 1st of January, 1826, a son of Valentine and Elizabeth Miller, who were pioneers of the Hoosier state, where the father carried on farming. He passed away during the Mexican war. Our subject was reared and received his education in his native state but in early manhood removed to Harrison county, Missouri, when this region was still largely a frontier district. Subsequently he came to Decatur county, Iowa, in 1881, and purchased land, which he operated for many years. He bought ninety acres in Hamilton township, a part of which tract is now within the city limits of Pleasanton and the rest adjoins the town. He continued to follow agricultural pursuits until his demise, which occurred on the 19th of March, 1909, when he was eighty-three years of age. He was industrious and practical and his labors yielded him a good income.

Captain Miller married Miss Cleopatra Scott, a daughter of Martin and Elizabeth (Samuels) Scott, natives of Kentucky, who became pioneers of Indiana, where the father farmed until his death, March 19, 1910. Captain and Mrs. Miller became the parents of eight children, three of whom are deceased, the others being: F. Pierce, at home; Eveline, the wife of Charles Burnau, a resident of Kansas; Hattie, who married George W. Sample, of Mercer county, Missouri; Mintes, who is living in Harrison county, Missouri; and Philip Sheridan, a resident of Clinton, that state.

Captain Miller was a republican and was loyal in his support of that party but never sought public office. His patriotism, however, was manifested by his service in two wars, for on the 19th of April, 1847, he enlisted in the Mexican war, being assigned to Company D, Third United States Dragoons. Later when the country became in-

volved in Civil war he enlisted in Company M, Third Iowa Regiment, and subsequently became captain of Company E, Twelfth Missouri Cavalry. He was a gallant and fearless officer and was a man who commanded the respect and esteem of those with whom he came in contact. He held membership in the Grand Army of the Republic and in days of peace was as true to his country's interests as in time of war.

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### JESSE A. MILLIGAN.

Jesse A. Milligan has laid much of the cement walk in Davis City and still takes contracts for such work occasionally. He was born in La Salle, Illinois, on the 19th of April, 1846, a son of John and Mary (Groves) Milligan, natives of Ohio. They became residents of Illinois in an early day in the history of that state and the father, who was a Methodist Episcopal minister, had much to do with the establishment and development of that denomination in the Prairie state. He passed away in Livingston county, Illinois, in 1852 and in 1853 his wife followed him to the great beyond.

Jesse A. Milligan was thrown upon his own resources at a very early age and although he attended school in Illinois to some extent the greater part of his education has been acquired outside of the schoolroom. In 1860 he came to Decatur county and was employed as a farm hand until August 22, 1862, when, at the age of sixteen years, he enlisted at Garden Grove in Company C, Ninth Iowa Volunteer Cavalry. He served until February 28, 1866, when he was given his honorable discharge from the service. On the 10th of June, 1864, he was taken prisoner at Gum Springs, Arkansas, and was held for six months, being exchanged on the following Christmas. He rejoined his regiment and continued with that command until discharged. He then returned to Decatur county and was employed as a farm hand for some time. At length he rented land which he operated until 1883, but in that year he removed to Davis City and went to work for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. He was in the track department of that company for twenty years but at the end of that time abandoned railroading and accepted the position of caring for the school buildings in Davis City. He has laid most of the cement sidewalks in Davis City and still occasionally does work of that character.



On the 9th of November, 1874, Mr. Milligan married Miss Melissa F. Taylor, a daughter of Benjamin R. and Lucretia (Hostetter) Taylor, natives of North Carolina and Ohio respectively. In 1837 they removed to Iowa and located at Agency, Wapello county, where the father farmed until 1859, when he removed with his family to Decatur county and purchased land in Franklin and Woodland townships which he operated during his remaining years. He passed away in March, 1895, when seventy-nine years of age, as he was born in 1816. The demise of his wife occurred on the 28th of May, 1890, when she was seventy years old, as her natal year was 1820. Mr. and Mrs. Milligan have had two children. Bertha M. was married on the 9th of February, 1895, to R. O. Atherton, who passed away in 1909. She now resides with her parents and is a trained nurse by profession. Ada B. died on the 12th of December, 1889, at the age of four and a half years.

Mr. Milligan is a democrat in his political belief and his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. He takes much interest in the meetings of the post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Leon and derives much pleasure from association with his old comrades. He is entitled to great credit for what he has accomplished in life as he was compelled to earn his own living at an age when most children are in school and as at all times he has had to depend upon his own energy and ability without hope of outside aid. All who know him hold him in high esteem and he has many personal friends.

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### JAMES A. WILSON.

James A. Wilson, the leading contractor of Garden Grove, was born on the 28th of March, 1849, in Washington county, Pennsylvania, a son of Hugh J. and Permelia (Boyd) Wilson. The paternal grandfather, John Wilson, was born in that county in the early days of its history, of Scotch-Irish parentage. He was typical of his race, possessing not only great physical strength but also unusual moral stamina and courage and was at all times ready to uphold that which he believed to be the right. There were many people of Scotch-Irish descent living in Washington county and they held the sincere respect of those who were associated with them. John Wilson, who was a farmer by occupation, passed away in his native county about 1853. He married a Miss Fisher and to them were born the following



children, John, David, William, James, Esther, Hugh J. and Margaret. Hugh J. Wilson was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, on the 1st of March, 1816, and received his education in the district schools in the vicinity of the homestead. He was early trained to farm work and on reaching maturity continued to devote his time and attention to agriculture. He served in the state militia and for seven years was a drill master. During the Civil war he raised and drilled two companies of soldiers in Linn county, Iowa, and would have gone to the front himself had it not been that he was too old. He was twice married, his first union being with Miss Permelia Boyd, by whom he had five children: Mary A.; Adessa, who married J. W. Wadell; John W.; James A., of this review; and Fillmore Scott. For his second wife Mr. Wilson chose Hannah E. McClinnens and they became the parents of seven children, John, Charles F., Elmer E., Ellie, Samuel F., Jemima and Jessie. The father passed away in 1893, in the faith of the Presbyterian church, of which he was a member.

James A. Wilson attended the public schools of Ohio, western Pennsylvania and Linn county, Iowa, and upon putting aside his textbooks became an apprentice to the carpenter's trade. He followed that trade for several years and then became a contractor and builder. In 1876 he located at Garden Grove, Decatur county, Iowa, and for the last thirty-nine years has been prominently identified with business circles here. He is probably the best known builder in Decatur county and has not only erected the greater part of the buildings put up in Garden Grove since he located here, but he has also supervised the construction of many of the best buildings in other sections of the county, including the new courthouse at Leon. He is himself an expert workman and demands excellent work from all who are in his employ and it is well known that he always lives up to his contracts.

In 1876 Mr. Wilson married Miss Estella Bowling, a daughter of Henry Bowling, of eastern Illinois and a direct descendant of the Indian princess Pocahontas. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have a son, Walter E., who after acquiring a good general education in the schools of Garden Grove took a course of instruction in painting and decorating in Chicago and is now also engaged in contracting and building. He married Miss Dorothy Robertson and they have one child.

Mr. Wilson of this review is a republican in his political belief and for ten years served as a member of the school board. He has been a representative of the Masonic order for about thirty years and holds membership in the lodge at Garden Grove. His probity and

integrity are among his most salient traits and he is also characterized by public spirit and a willingness to help those who are less fortunate than he.

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### THEODORE ALBAUGH.

Theodore Albaugh, who died in the spring of 1915, was a farmer and stock-raiser residing on section 14, Long Creek township. He was born in Fulton county, Illinois, April 13, 1856, and was a son of Jesse Albaugh, who was born in Ohio, of German and Scotch ancestry. In the early '40s the father removed to Fulton county, Illinois, where he was residing at the time the country became engaged in civil war. In 1862 he enlisted in Company K, One Hundred and Third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served for three years in the Union army. He did not live to return home, as he was killed in action and two of his sons, Warner and John, also gave up their lives in defense of the old flag. By trade he was a brick molder but he also engaged in farming to some extent and was likewise a preacher of the Christian church. His wife, who was also of German and Scotch descent, was born in Licking county, Ohio, and in that state they were married. She continued to reside in Fulton county, Illinois, until after her husband's death but in 1865 removed to Hancock county, that state, where she continued to live until her demise, which occurred on the 2d of November, 1896, in La Harpe.

Theodore Albaugh acquired his early education in the public schools and for two years was subsequently a student at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio. He remained at home and assisted in the work of the farm until after his mother's death with the exception of two years which he spent as telegraph operator. In 1900 he sold his interest in the home place and went to California but later removed to Canada, locating in the vicinity of Winnipeg, where he farmed for one year. He then resided in Winnipeg until 1906 and while there was engaged in the real-estate business. It was in 1908 that he came to Iowa and purchased five hundred and sixty acres of land near Kellerton, which he operated for two years. At the expiration of that period he traded his property for a livery stable in Chicago, which he conducted for only three months, however. He next came to Decatur county, Iowa, and took possession of two hundred and sixty acres of land which he had purchased a short time previously. He continued to own and operate one hundred and twenty acres of excellent land on section

14, Long Creek township, until his death and was successfully engaged in general farming and stock-raising. He was progressive as well as energetic and in the management of his affairs met with most excellent success, being a man of good business ability and sound judgment.

On the 1st of January, 1900, Mr. Albaugh was married to Miss Clara C. Cochran, a daughter of Sanford Cochran, who was born in Ohio but for many years carried on agricultural pursuits in Mahaska county, Iowa, where he passed away. To Mr. and Mrs. Albaugh was born a son, Theodore, who is now nine years of age and is attending school in Oskaloosa.

For many years Mr. Albaugh supported the republican party but later voted independent of party ties. For some time he served as a member of the board of supervisors of Hancock county, Illinois, and also filled a number of township offices, including that of school director. Fraternally he was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to the lodge at La Harpe, Illinois. He met with success in business affairs and his life was such as to command the respect and confidence of those with whom he came in contact.

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### ELBERT YOUNGS.

Elbert Youngs, a well known farmer residing on section 20, Hamilton township, was born in Will county, Illinois, on the 27th of September, 1864. His parents, Leonard and Philena (Scheffler) Youngs, were natives respectively of New York and of Ohio. On the paternal side the family is of English and Irish descent and in the maternal line it is of German extraction. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Youngs were married in Kankakee county, Illinois, where he followed mechanical pursuits until the time of his demise. His widow removed with her children to Decatur county, Iowa, in March, 1899, and her son Elbert purchased two hundred acres of partially improved land in Hamilton township, on which he still lives. The mother has now reached the advanced age of seventy-two years, as her birth occurred September 28, 1842, and she makes her home with our subject.

Elbert Youngs attended the district schools of Illinois and during his boyhood and youth also learned much concerning practical farming. Following the arrival of the family in Decatur county he assumed charge of the work of the farm and has proved an efficient

agriculturist. He carries on general farming and stock-raising. The farm, which is situated on the road from Pleasanton to Davis City, is well improved and everything about the place is kept in excellent condition. In December, 1913, his new residence was completed and it is one of the most modern and attractive homes in his township.

Mr. Youngs was married February 5, 1892, to Miss Lora May Guilford, a daughter of George N. and Ellen (Gay) Guilford. Her father was born in Michigan of English ancestry and in his early manhood followed the profession of teaching, although he later became a farmer. His wife was born in Cook county, Illinois, of German stock and their marriage was celebrated in Kankakee county, that state, where he farmed until 1892, when he and his wife removed to Kankakee, where they now reside. Mr. and Mrs. Youngs have three children, namely: George Adelbert, born December 12, 1893, who will graduate from the Leon high school with the class of 1916 and who is his father's right hand man on the farm; Gladys, born August 28, 1896, a student in the Pleasanton high school; and Leonard Guilford, born August 19, 1902, who is attending the Pleasanton public schools.

Mr. Youngs is a democrat and for five years served as trustee of Hamilton township, while for three terms he has been a member of the district school board. He and his son belong to the Masonic blue lodge at Pleasanton and his wife and elder daughter belong to the chapter of the Eastern Star at that place. He is also identified with the Modern Woodmen of America at Pleasanton. No measure seeking the advancement of his community lacks his hearty cooperation and he is one of the valued citizens of Hamilton township.

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### JAMES C. CAMPBELL.

Two hundred and sixty acres of excellent land in Eden township pays tribute to its owner, James C. Campbell, and the excellent condition of everything upon the farm testifies to his industry and good management. He is a native son of this county, born in Center township August 12, 1862. His parents, Closson and Marietta (Coover) Campbell, were both natives of Ohio, where the father farmed until 1862, when he removed to Decatur county, Iowa, and rented a farm in Center township, which he operated for eight years. At the end of that time he purchased forty acres of land in Eden township, which he cultivated until the fall of 1914, when he retired from active life.



He has since made his home with his children. He is now eighty-three years old and the period of leisure which he is enjoying is well deserved. His wife died May 9, 1915, at the age of seventy-eight years. To them were born five children, namely: Sarah, Mary, Samuel, James C. and William C.

James C. Campbell was reared and educated in Center and Eden townships, this county, and continued to reside at home, assisting his father with the farm work, until he was thirty-two years of age. He then began his independent business career and for five years farmed rented land. At the end of that time he had accumulated sufficient capital to purchase one hundred and twenty acres in Center township. However, after operating that place for two years he sold it and bought one hundred and thirty acres in Decatur township, which he operated for a similar period of time. He then sold that property also and bought two hundred and sixty acres on sections 16 and 21, Eden township, which he still owns. He at once began improving his place and has brought it to a high state of development. He carries on general farming and stock-raising and finds both branches of his business profitable.

On the 3d of March, 1895, Mr. Campbell married Miss Cora Paris, a daughter of William H. and Maria (Beavers) Paris. Her paternal grandfather, James Paris, was one of the earliest settlers of High Point township and entered land there from the government. Subsequently he operated a general store in the town of Paris, which was so named in his honor but which is now known as High Point. He was also for many years engaged in agricultural pursuits. Mr. and Mrs. William H. Paris were both natives of Ohio, but in the late '40s or early '50s he came to Decatur county, Iowa, with his parents. He was educated in this county and remained at home until the outbreak of the Civil war, when he went to Illinois and enlisted in Company L, Second Illinois Cavalry, with which he served for four years, making a record of which he had every reason to be proud. When peace was restored he returned to Decatur county, Iowa, and purchased land in High Point township, which he operated until called by death in April, 1897, when fifty-six years old. His wife died in May, 1907, when sixty-one years of age. They were the parents of five children: Mrs. Campbell, Etta, Mamie, Lydia and William R. Mr. and Mrs. Campbell have three children, as follows: Grace, Marie and Jennie.

Mr. Campbell is a republican and keeps well informed on all issues before the public. He is especially interested in the welfare of the public schools and has served for several years as school direc-



tor. Fraternally he belongs to the Homestead Lodge and his religious faith is that of the Church of Christ. His progressiveness, enterprise and integrity have gained him the unqualified respect of all who have been brought in contact with him and there are many who value highly his friendship.

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### W. A. ALEXANDER.

W. A. Alexander, who is one of the successful business men of Leon, where he owns a drug store, was born in High Point township, this county, November 22, 1857, a son of Captain Eli H. and Sallie E. (Flinn) Alexander, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

Our subject is the fifth in order of birth in a family of nine children and was reared in this county. He attended the Garden Grove Seminary under Professor Harkness and after attaining his majority engaged in teaching school for about two years. He then came to Leon and became a partner of Dr. H. R. Layton, the firm conducting a drug business for about four years, after which our subject purchased the interest of Dr. Layton, becoming the sole proprietor of the establishment. In 1883 he added a line of musical instruments and furniture and has since built up a large business in that connection, operating over a radius of about one hundred miles. Since the wonderful development of phonographs of various kinds he has also become agent for the Edison talking machines. He sells musical instruments, talking machines and furniture at both wholesale and retail. He still gives much attention to his drug business, has maintained a high standard of accuracy in his prescription department and handles only drugs of known strength and purity. He also carries a well selected stock of druggists' sundries. His business occupies a two-story building, including the upper floor and also a large warehouse and he employs on an average ten people, all of which indicates that his is one of the most prosperous establishments in the county. He also owns twenty residences at Leon and elsewhere, frequently buying and selling city property. He is characterized by insight, sound judgment and energy, qualities which go far toward securing success in any line of business.

In 1884 Mr. Alexander was united in marriage to Miss Ida Yanney, of Elyria, Ohio, and she passed away in 1894, leaving three children. Lucile, who is teaching music, studied for three years at Drake

University and for one year at Chicago. Clive M., of New York, an expert chemist, is a graduate of the State University of Iowa, where he was instructor for a time, and also has the degree of Ph. D. from Columbia University. Enid, who is also a resident of New York City, is a graduate of the West high school of Des Moines and the Randolph-Macon Woman's College of Lynchburg, Virginia. She is a violinist of unusual talent. Mr. Alexander was again married on the 7th of October, 1902, Miss Adella L. Merwin, of Leon, becoming his wife. She was born at Spencer, Iowa, but for some time resided at Cresco, whence she removed to Leon.

Mr. Alexander is a republican but his extensive business interests require his undivided time and attention, leaving him no opportunity to take a very active part in political affairs. Fraternally he belongs to the lodge of the Knights of Pythias and also to the Dramatic Order of the Knights of Khorassan. He is likewise identified with the Yeomen and his wife is a member of the Pythian Sisters. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which he belongs, and he guides his life by its teachings. He has a high standing in business circles and is personally esteemed and respected as his dominant traits of character are such as invariably command regard.

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### JOHN STOLBERG.

John Stolberg, who is residing in Lamoni, is still operating his farm, which comprises six hundred and sixty acres of excellent land, three hundred and twenty in Fayette township, Decatur county, and three hundred and forty in Ringgold county. His birth occurred in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, on the 23d of December, 1852, and his parents were John P. and Mary (Hanson) Stolberg, the former of whom died when his son was but an infant. In 1856 the mother removed to Will county, Illinois, but our subject did not emigrate to the United States until 1865. She was married in Illinois to Henry Peters and they subsequently went to Grinnell, Iowa, where she died at the age of seventy-seven years. She was a Lutheran in her religious faith. The subject of this review was the only child born to her first union but by her second marriage she had a number of children. Our subject, however, is the only one who resides in Decatur county.

John Stolberg received a little schooling in Germany and attended school for a short time after removing to this country but was early obliged to earn his own support and it took him two years to repay

his passage money to America, which had been lent him by an uncle. He remained in Will county, Illinois, until April, 1877, when he came to Decatur county, Iowa, where he worked for a year in the employ of the late David Dancer. He then rented land from Mr. Dancer for three years, at the end of which time he had accumulated sufficient capital to enable him to buy two hundred and forty acres. Subsequently he added an eighty acre tract adjoining and still later invested in farming land in Ringgold county. His land was partly improved when it came into his possession but he has brought it to a higher state of cultivation and has erected a number of good buildings. He has two large farms besides twenty acres of timber land and has taken his son, Roy H., into partnership with him in the conduct of his farming and stock-raising interests. They give employment to a number of men and are known as alert, progressive and successful agriculturists. They receive a handsome financial return from their land and are substantial and representative citizens of Decatur county.

On the 5th of June, 1879, in Will county, Illinois, occurred the marriage of Mr. Stolberg and Miss Louisa Hansen, who was born in Will county, Illinois, on the 2d of March, 1860, of the marriage of Peter and Anna (Wilkins) Hansen, both natives of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. They were married in that province and remained there until 1857, when they crossed the Atlantic to the new world and located in Will county, Illinois. Both have passed away, the father dying on the 31st of August, 1888, when fifty-eight years of age, and the mother in 1895, when seventy-two years old. They were the parents of two sons and two daughters and the two sons are still living in Will county. They were Lutherans in religious faith and the father served the required time in the German army. Mr. and Mrs. Stolberg have five living children: Albert Peter, who is farming in Decatur county; Emma Amelia, who became the wife of Martin Noftsgger, of Faulk county, South Dakota, by whom she has a daughter, Margaret Louise; Jessie Belle, who gave her hand in marriage to Samuel P. Young, of Missouri, by whom she has two children, Cecil J. D. and Alberta Marie; Roy Hansen, who is in partnership with his father; and John Burton, at home. A daughter, Minnie May, died when five months old.

The republican party receives the support of Mr. Stolberg, who is convinced of the soundness of its principles. He is identified with the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and his wife is affiliated with the Daughters of Rebekah. Both hold membership in the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints and

take an active part in the work of that organization, especially in the Sunday school. Since 1906 Mr. Stolberg has resided in a fine residence in Lamoni but still gives much time to the supervision of his extensive farming and stock-raising interests. He feeds many head of fine stock each year and finds that a very profitable business. He takes the greater pride in his success because it has been gained without the aid of influential friends, as he began his independent career with no capital but his strength, energy and determination to win prosperity. There has never been any doubt as to his integrity and honesty and those who know him most intimately are his sincerest friends.

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### JOHN F. CREES.

John F. Crees, who has lived retired at Grand River for nine years, is one of the wealthiest men of Decatur county, owning one thousand acres of excellent land which is operated by his sons. He was born in Wayne county, Ohio, January 12, 1840, of the marriage of Joseph and Catherine Ann (Coppersmith) Crees, both natives of Allegheny county, Pennsylvania. They grew to maturity in their native county and there their marriage occurred. In the fall of 1839 they removed to Wayne county, Ohio, but in the following spring returned to Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, where they remained until 1848 or 1849, when they removed to Jefferson county, Iowa. In the fall of 1854 they came to Decatur county and located in the northwestern part of Decatur township. Mr. Crees purchased land from the Hungarian colony but as they were unable to give a clear title he lost the thousand dollars which he had paid upon the land. Subsequently he entered land from the government, securing seven thousand acres which he cultivated and improved. At the time there were many Indians living here and our subject and his brothers and sisters had more Indian playmates than white. The father broke land with a team composed of eight yoke of oxen and the plow which he used had a fourteen foot beam and would cut and turn a furrow of thirty-six inches. He was a democrat and served as supervisor of Decatur township, proving a very efficient officer. He passed away when eighty-three years of age, in the faith of the United Brethren church, to which his wife also belonged. She died when about fifty-five years old. To their union were born eleven children, of whom our subject is the third, and of whom three sons and four daughters



JOHN F. CREES





survive, namely: Michael, a farmer of Grand River township; Mrs. Rebecca Davidson, a widow living in Grand River; John R.; Mrs. Maria Eller, a widow living in California; Mrs. Catherine Koger, a widow who resides in Grand River; Sallie, the wife of T. T. Beck, of Grand River; and Joseph, who resides upon the homestead in Decatur township. The following have passed away: Ann, who was a school teacher and died when twenty years of age; Cyrus; Mary; and one who died in infancy.

John F. Crees was reared in Decatur township and early in life became familiar with approved agricultural methods. In his early manhood he traveled to a considerable extent and made two trips across the plains to California, returning the first time by way of the Isthmus of Panama. In 1867 he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits and for many years was actively engaged in farming in this county. In addition to growing the usual crops he bought, fed, raised and sold stock, handling many head annually. At one time he operated about six hundred acres of land in the northwestern part of Decatur township and he now owns about one thousand acres which is comprised in three farms of respectively one hundred and sixty, five hundred and forty and three hundred and fifty acres. His land is now farmed by his sons and it is situated in Long Creek, Decatur, Grand River and Richland townships. He received eighty acres from his father's estate but has acquired title to all of the rest by his own well planned and unremitting labor.

In 1867 Mr. Crees married Miss Margaret A. Koger, who was born and reared in Harrison county, Missouri, but was residing in this county at the time of her marriage. She passed away about nine years ago, when fifty-three years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Crees became the parents of fourteen children, seven of whom survive, namely: Cyrus, who is farming the home place; Jordan, who is operating what is known as the Varga place, which is now owned by our subject; Cedothia, the wife of Harry Weldon, of Grand River; Fred and Grover, both of whom are cultivating land belonging to our subject; Kline, at home; and Henry, who resides in Nebraska. Those deceased were: Mrs. Etta Buell, who died leaving two children; Lizzie, who married Amos Bell and became the mother of three children; one who died in infancy unnamed; Lena, who died when about four years old; Hayward, who died at the age of two years; and Granville, the first born, who died at the age of six months.

Mr. Crees is a democrat and for several years served as supervisor of his township. During the Civil war he enlisted from this county in Company I, Thirty-fourth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served

for a year, after which he was honorably discharged. He at one time belonged to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Decatur but has now allowed his membership to lapse. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church in Grand River township and take a leading part in the furtherance of its work. He has not only gained an unusual measure of material prosperity but he has also won the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens to a marked degree and is recognized as one of the most valued residents of Grand River, where he has lived in honorable retirement for the past nine years.

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### IRVIN L. BATHE.

Irvin L. Bathe, of Bloomington township, is one of the extensive landowners of Decatur county and is successfully engaged in general farming and stock-raising. His birth occurred at Tuskeega, that township, on the 10th of December, 1876, and he is a son of George R. Bathe, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

Irvin L. Bathe was reared in this county until he was a lad of about thirteen years, when the family removed to Kansas, whence they subsequently went to Oklahoma. He received a good common-school education and learned much concerning farming and stock-raising from his father, an expert in those lines. When eighteen years of age he began work for himself and so continued for five years. He received eighty acres of land from his grandfather's estate and this gave him a good start in life. For a number of years he has resided in Bloomington township and operates about seven hundred and forty acres individually besides operating two hundred and eighty acres in partnership with his brother-in-law, T. J. Hill. They own two hundred acres of that tract and rent eighty acres and Mr. Bathe owns five hundred and forty acres of the seven hundred and forty which he operates individually. He resides on section 27, Bloomington township, and his home farm is one of the best improved properties of his locality. He is also interested in connection with Mr. Hill in a butcher shop at Lamoni. He has displayed marked industry and enterprise and has also managed his affairs well, so it is but natural that he is today ranked among the men of affluence in Bloomington township.

On the 24th of December, 1903, Mr. Bathe was married to Miss Marshia H. Hill, who was born in Caldwell county, Missouri, but

was taken when small to Harrison county, that state, where she grew to womanhood. She was educated at the Stanberry Normal School and taught for eight years. Her parents, Maurice H. and Lucy M. Hill, both passed away many years ago. The brothers and sisters of Mrs. Bathe are as follows: John and L. D., of Andover; T. J., of Lamoni; Mrs. Fred Jones, who is living in Andover; and Mrs. Riley Hurst, of Lamoni. Mr. and Mrs. Bathe have two children: Irvin Lee, eight years of age, who is attending school; and G. R., who will be five years of age in June, 1915.

Mr. Bathe is a republican and is serving efficiently as trustee of Bloomington township and as president of the local school board. Fraternally he is identified with the Knights of Pythias, to whose teachings he is loyal. His wife holds membership in the Christian church and takes a commendable interest in the furtherance of its work. Mr. Bathe is progressive in all that he does and has contributed to the advancement of general farming and stock-raising interests in Decatur county as well as gained marked success for himself.

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### WILLIAM C. COZAD.

William C. Cozad, who served acceptably as county treasurer, on the expiration of his term in December, 1914, returned to his farm in Morgan township, Decatur county, and is now engaged in agricultural pursuits. His birth occurred in Warren county, Indiana, on the 19th of December, 1849, and his parents were A. and Emeline (Swank) Cozad. For several years the father farmed in the Hoosier state but in 1854 he removed to Decatur county, Iowa, where he homesteaded land, to the cultivation of which he devoted his remaining years. He held several township offices and supported the democratic party. Both he and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and were highly esteemed in their locality. He passed away in 1868 but she survived until 1902. They were the parents of ten children, namely: Jacob A.; John S.; Aaron A.; James H.; William C.; Rosa A., who married William Woods; Lucinda I., who died in 1888; Mary E., who is the wife of R. F. Dunham; Josie E.; and Joseph, who died in infancy.

William C. Cozad attended the country schools during the winters, when his assistance was not needed upon the farm, and remained with his parents until he reached mature years. Upon starting out for himself he continued to farm, although he taught school for a

few years through the winter months. From the beginning he was successful in his chosen occupation, as he had received thorough training in agricultural work as a youth. He has held every elective office in his township and in 1910 was elected county treasurer on the democratic ticket and in 1912 was reelected to that office. He was not only scrupulous in the discharge of his duties, safeguarding at every turn the funds of the county, but he was also systematic and efficient and proved an excellent treasurer. Following the expiration of his second term he returned to his farm in Morgan township, the operation of which he supervised during his tenure of office, and he is now giving his time and attention to farming and stock-raising.

In 1873 Mr. Cozad married Miss Nancy J. Bright, a daughter of Jacob Bright, of Decatur county. Mr. and Mrs. Cozad have four children: Herbert E., who married Miss Anna Cartwright and has three children, David W., Edith and Winston C.; Lottie M.; Floyd H., who married Lois Stewart; and Angie H. Mr. Cozad stands well in his community and well merits the confidence placed in him, for in all the relations of life he has conformed his conduct to high moral standards. As an agriculturist he is progressive and energetic and he finds farming not only highly profitable but also congenial.

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### O. L. WELD.

O. L. Weld, who owns an excellent farm of one hundred and twenty acres on sections 19 and 20, Fayette township, has resided in Decatur county since the spring of 1899 and is well known and highly esteemed here. His birth occurred in Miller township, La Salle county, Illinois, January 18, 1866, and he is a son of G. W. and Mary (Olsen) Weld, now residents of Lamoni, Iowa. The father is now past eighty-one years of age, while the mother is seventy-eight. To their union were born four children, those besides our subject being: F. M., of Lamoni; Mrs. Phoebe Allen, a widow living in that city; and Mrs. Carrie J. Danielson, of Holden, Missouri.

Mr. Weld was reared and educated in La Salle county, Illinois, and early in life became familiar with agricultural pursuits. He has never desired to follow any other occupation and has been very successful as a farmer and stock-raiser. In 1899 he removed to Decatur county, Iowa, and now owns one hundred and twenty acres of productive land on sections 19 and 20, Fayette township, which he has



recently leased, so that he is now enjoying a period of well earned rest.

Mr. Weld is independent politically as he believes that the interests of good government are best served by refusing to obey the dictates of party bosses. He has done well the work that has come to his hand, and his industry, integrity and public spirit have gained him the esteem of many.

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### JOHN NISH.

John Nish, who was an efficient and well known farmer of Franklin township, was born on the 1st of December, 1834, in Scotland, a son of William and Grace (McGeoch) Nish, both natives of that country. When sixteen years of age our subject accompanied his father to the United States and they located in Auburn, New York, where they were joined a year later by the mother and the other children. After a few years the family removed to McHenry county, Illinois, and there they continued to reside until all of the children reached maturity. Subsequently the parents became residents of Lake county, Illinois, where both passed away, the demise of the mother occurring in 1890, when she was seventy-five years of age, and that of the father in 1900. They were the parents of twelve children.

In 1878 John Nish came to Decatur county and purchased one hundred acres of excellent land on section 1, Franklin township. He was characterized by unremitting industry and excellent judgment and his farm became one of the best improved properties of his locality. He erected fine buildings and secured the latest machinery to facilitate the work of the fields. In all that he did he was progressive and also practical and he received a gratifying income from his land.

Mr. Nish was married on the 21st of March, 1878, to Mrs. Mary (Hamilton) McDowell, a daughter of Thomas Hamilton and a native of Scotland. She was brought to the United States by her parents when but five years of age and the family home was established in Chicago, where both her father and mother passed away. They were the parents of five children, of whom three daughters survive. Mrs. Nish had three children by her first husband and by her marriage to our subject became the mother of seven children, namely: John Hamilton, who was born January 1, 1879, and who is operating

the homestead in partnership with his brother, Eugene David; Charles Edgar, who died in infancy; Eugene David, who was born October 5, 1883; William Thomas, of Des Moines, born January 20, 1886, who is with the Great Western Railroad Company and who is married and has one child; Mary Grace, who was born July 23, 1888; May Marguerite, who was born August 20, 1891, and is teaching in this county; and Jessie Florence, who was born May 1, 1894, and who is also a teacher.

Mr. Nish was a republican and took a keen interest in everything relating to the public welfare although he never sought official preferment. He was well educated, was an omnivorous reader and was especially concerned for the advancement of the public schools. He served as a member of the school board for a number of years and was also president of that body, doing much in an official capacity to secure improvements in the local schools. He attended the Methodist Episcopal church and his family are still active in the work of that organization. He was a man of unswerving integrity and of much force of character and all who came in contact with him esteemed him highly. His demise, which occurred on the 8th of August, 1910, was the occasion of sincere regret and his many friends still cherish his memory.

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### WILLIAM MELVIN YOUNG.

William Melvin Young, a well known farmer and stock-raiser, owning and operating a fine farm on section 16, Garden Grove township, was born near Lake Erie, in the province of Ottawa, Canada, on the 20th of February, 1853. His father, William M. Young, was born in Onondaga county, New York, and the mother, whose maiden name was Miss Amelia Coon, was born in Connecticut. Both accompanied their respective parents to Canada in their youth and their marriage was celebrated in the Dominion. In the fall of 1865 they removed with their family to Livingston county, Illinois, where they farmed for a year, after which the family removed to Decatur county, Iowa. The father purchased a quarter section of unimproved land on section 16, Garden Grove township, from Retus Shaw, whose family had entered it at five dollars per acre. Mr. Young devoted his energies to improving his farm for many years and at the time of his death also owned land in Kansas and in the state of Washington. He passed away in Humeston, Iowa, at the home of a daughter, in

December, 1898, when eighty-two years of age. In 1847, while living in Canada, he served as a lieutenant in the Ninth Battalion of the Leeds Militia and aided in putting down the Fenian raid. His political belief was that of the republican party and his religious faith was indicated by his membership in the Methodist church. His wife, who was also a communicant of that church, died on the home farm in Garden Grove township, November 24, 1893, when nearly seventy-three years of age.

Mr. and Mrs. William M. Young were the parents of eight children, of whom four survive, those besides our subject being: Abraham C., who was born in 1849 and who is now a lumberman of Tacoma, Washington; James D., born in 1857, who resides at Wallace, Idaho, and is a mine operator in the Cœur d'Alene district; and Mrs. Susan Mallette, twin of James D., who is the widow of Isaac Mallette and resides at Humeston, Iowa. Those deceased are Philip, Justin, John and David, the last named of whom died in infancy.

William M. Young was about thirteen years of age when the family located in Garden Grove township, this county, and continued his education in the public schools here, studying under Professor Harkness and others. During his boyhood and youth he learned much concerning practical methods of agriculture and since reaching man's estate has farmed independently. He owns the homestead on section 16, Garden Grove township, and gives considerable attention to the raising of stock in addition to growing the usual crops.

Mr. Young was married at Hopkins, Missouri, in 1881 to Miss Jane Alice Goodwin, who was born in Clinton county, Missouri, on the 13th of March, 1866, of the marriage of Tobias and Cordelia (Breckenridge) Goodwin. The latter was a niece of the Hon. John C. Breckenridge, of Kentucky, and her grandfather was in his day one of the largest slave owners in Clay county, Missouri. Her birth occurred in Missouri, where her people had settled on removing from Kentucky. The family came originally from England. Tobias Goodwin was a native of Tennessee. Mr. and Mrs. Young have become the parents of five children: Grace D., who died at the age of eighteen years and who was a successful teacher; Dora, who died when seventeen years old; Bertha, who is assistant principal of the schools at Washta, Iowa; William M., who was sixteen years of age in March, 1915, and who is of the fourth generation of the family to bear the name of William; and Jessie Elizabeth, thirteen years old.

Mr. Young is a republican and has served in a number of local offices. Both he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church of Le Roy and work for the moral betterment of their community.

He has resided in Decatur county for many years and was the second man to ride on a train in the county, John Arnold being the first and the train being one used in the construction of the railroad. He also helped to put up the first telegraph line into Garden Grove and has many interesting reminiscences of the early days. The success that he has gained is well deserved and all those who have been associated with him hold him in high esteem.

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### ELDER JOHN SMITH.

For fourteen years Elder John Smith has been president of the Lamoni branch and of the Lamoni stake of the Reorganized Church of the Latter Day Saints and pastor of the local congregation. He was born in Stockport, Lancashire, England, February 8, 1844, a son of Henry and Mary Smith, the latter of whom died when our subject was but three months old. He was but a boy of about twelve years when his father died and in his early youth began to provide for his own support. The father was a weaver by trade and was quite well known in his community. He was active in politics and kept well informed as to public affairs. To him and his wife were born four children and our subject has a sister, Mrs. Edward Smith, who is living in England at the age of seventy-six years. The grandfather served under Wellington at Waterloo and received a pension from the British government.

When but eight years of age John Smith was placed in a mill to learn weaving and before that had been employed at running errands. However, he was able to spend some time in school while a boy and by close application and the habit of reading during his spare moments, he gained quite a good education. In 1862, when eighteen years of age, he emigrated to the United States and in the following year enlisted in the United States naval service as a landsman, and served for over a year, being then honorably discharged. He is now receiving a pension from the federal government. Upon returning to civil life he again took up his residence at Fall River, Massachusetts, where he had settled on first emigrating to this country. In 1865 he became connected with the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints and the following year began preaching in the east. He was especially active in the ministry at Fall River and New Bedford, Massachusetts, and in addition to his work as a preacher found time to serve as justice of the peace, which office he



held for fourteen years, or from 1886 to 1900. He was appointed for two seven year terms, his efficiency and honesty being attested by the fact that he was appointed by both a republican and a democratic governor. While in New Bedford he was for several years engaged in grocery business and also devoted considerable attention to real estate and insurance. Shortly before the expiration of his second term as justice of the peace Mr. Smith emigrated westward and located in Lamoni, Iowa. From the time of his arrival in Lamoni, on the 31st of March, 1900, to the present, he has been active in church work here and since May, 1901, has been pastor of the local congregation of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints. He is also president of the Lamoni branch and of the Lamoni stake and from April, 1900, until April, 1902, was business manager and treasurer of the Herald Publishing House. His enthusiasm, ability and moral stamina have done much to further the interests of his denomination in Lamoni and Decatur county and he is unsparing of his time and energy in promoting the further growth of the church.

On the 1st of July, 1865, Mr. Smith married Miss Mary A. Gilbert, a native of England, who passed away in 1898 at New Bedford, Massachusetts, leaving two children. Mrs. Lewis E. Bentley, the daughter, is the wife of the superintendent of a large cotton mill of New Bedford, but they reside at Fairhaven, Massachusetts. They have a son and daughter. Hiram, who is employed in the New Bedford postoffice, is married and also has a son and daughter. On the 14th of January, 1900, Mr. Smith married Mrs. Kate E. (Donohue) Blood, who was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1847, a daughter of Jeremiah and Mary Donohue, likewise natives of the Bay state. The family is of Irish descent and was established in Boston when there were no street cars and omnibuses were the means of transportation. Jeremiah Donohue was a ship carpenter and met with a fair measure of success in that occupation. He was a good citizen and a loving husband and father. Mrs. Smith was reared in the Catholic faith but in 1873 was converted to the belief of the Reorganized Church of the Latter Day Saints. She was then a consumptive and was considered incurable, but after becoming a member of that church she was completely cured and for the past forty years has enjoyed excellent health. While living in the east she was very active in the church and in the Sunday school and since removing to Lamoni she has been a factor in the growth of the local church and is the teacher of a class of young women in the Sunday school. She is much interested in the cause of Christian education and is a charter member of the Patronesses of Graceland College, a church school.



Elder Smith is a republican and has always taken much interest in the affairs of government. While living in Massachusetts he was a candidate for the state legislature and, as before mentioned, was for fourteen years justice of the peace. He continues his relations with his comrades in arms as a member of John R. Andrews Post, No. 487, G. A. R., of which he is commander. He has many friends and all who have been closely associated with him hold him in sincere respect.

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### EDWARD WERNITCH.

Edward Wernitch, deceased, was for a number of years actively engaged in agricultural pursuits in New Buda township and was highly esteemed by those who knew him. His birth occurred in Marion county, Iowa, February 25, 1856, and he was a son of John and Katherine (Hohn) Wernitch, natives of Germany, who settled in Marion county, Iowa, at an early day in the history of this state. Subsequently they removed just over the line into Missouri. The father worked at the cabinetmaker's trade in Germany and after arriving in this country he followed cabinet and carpenter work and also gave some attention to farming. He passed away February 28, 1906, and his wife died in November, 1909.

Edward Wernitch grew to manhood in Missouri and there received a common-school education. He remained with his parents until he became of age and after his marriage, came to Decatur county, Iowa, buying eighty acres on section 16, New Buda township. He operated that tract for many years, or until ill health compelled him to abandon farm work. He was an invalid for two years before his demise, which occurred on the 14th of November, 1890. He was energetic and planned his work carefully and met with a gratifying measure of success as an agriculturist.

On the 23d of October, 1877, Mr. Wernitch married Miss Clara R. Gasaway, a daughter of Marion and Margaret (Lawrence) Gasaway, natives of Indiana. Mrs. Wernitch was born in the Hoosier state, September 23, 1855, and in the following year was taken by her parents to southern Missouri, where the father engaged in farming. During the Civil war he sold out and went to Kansas, thence to Illinois and still later back to Indiana, where he passed away in October, 1865. He had survived his wife for a number of years, as she died in January, 1858. Mr. and Mrs. Wernitch became the par-

ents of four children: Lulu M., the wife of Ed E. Graham, a farmer of this county; Margaret J., who is teaching school at Hanover, Kansas; John F., who died in April, 1884, when thirteen months old; and Laura E., the wife of Quintin B. Wright, who is principal of schools at Mineral, Washington. Mrs. Wernitch has seven grandchildren, including the two daughters and three sons of Mr. and Mrs. Ed E. Graham, and a son and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Quintin B. Wright.

Mr. Wernitch was a republican and was trustee of New Buda township, discharging his duties to the satisfaction of his constituents. He belonged to the Grange and took an active interest in all movements that sought to bring the farmers closer together and to give them a more scientific attitude toward their work. He guided his life by the teachings of the United Brethren church, of which he was a member, and his sterling worth gained him the confidence and respect of all who were associated with him.

Mrs. Wernitch resides in Davis City, where she owns two good residences, one of which she erected and the other of which she remodeled and now rents. She is a member of the Rebekah lodge and has many friends not only in that order but in the community at large as she is a woman of many admirable qualities.

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### WILLIAM H. SHIELDS.

William H. Shields, of Leon, has met with gratifying success in the real-estate business. He was born in Eddyville, Iowa, on the 6th of October, 1865, a son of Isaac and Jennie Shields, who removed to Iowa in 1850. The father, although a native of Ireland, emigrated to the United States and settled in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, when but nineteen years of age, remaining there until his removal west. He engaged in merchandising for many years and was quite prominent in his community, serving in various local offices. His political belief was that of the republican party. Both he and his wife have passed away. To their union were born six children, of whom four survive, our subject, a brother at Eddyville, one at Frederick, Iowa, and one at Mount Ayr.

William H. Shields was reared under the parental roof and was given educational advantages. After completing the public-school course he entered Penn College at Oskaloosa, where he remained for two years, and he received a thorough business training through

assisting his father with the work of the store. When about twenty-one years old his health began to fail so he left the store and began farming, which occupation he followed until 1913. For many years he has been associated with A. L. Ackerley in banking and in the real-estate business, the firm having interests at Leon and Grand River. In April, 1914, Mr. Shields removed to Leon, where he is now residing, and he has gained a place among the representative and prosperous business men of this city. He deals in both farm and city property and usually buys and sells outright. He has at various times held title to large tracts of land and for a quarter of a century owned an excellent farm in Grand River township, upon which he resided until he removed to Leon and which he has recently sold. He still owns three hundred and sixty acres in Eden township, one and a half miles south of Leon, and receives a handsome addition to his income from his land.

Mr. Shields was married in Decatur county to Miss Amy Jennings, who was born in Ohio but was reared in this state, as the family removed here when she was but a child. Her father farmed in Grand River township and was well known among the early residents of that township. During the Civil war he fought valiantly in the defense of the Union. Mr. and Mrs. Shields have three daughters, Lulu, Ruth and Margaret, all attending school.

Mr. Shields is a republican and has been honored by election to all of the local offices, which he has filled with satisfaction to his constituents. Fraternally he is identified with the Masonic order and the Modern Woodmen of America and both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, whose teachings are the guiding principles of their lives. He has succeeded in business and has also won the sincere respect and esteem of his fellowmen, who recognize his integrity and honesty.

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### GUY E. DAVIS.

Guy E. Davis is a successful dealer in feed, seed and grain at Pleasanton and also buys and sells real estate and in addition to his other work makes a specialty of collections. He was born in Montrose, Lee county, Iowa, September 20, 1872, a son of Francis M. and Lydia (Wellington) Davis, natives respectively of Appanoose county, Iowa, and Nauvoo, Illinois. For twenty-nine years the father was captain of the Dan Hines steamboat on the Mississippi but in

1879 he abandoned the river and removed to Decatur county, Iowa, where he purchased forty acres of land south of Lamoni. He improved his property to some extent but after several years sold that place and purchased one hundred and eighty-six and a half acres in Hamilton township, to the cultivation of which he devoted the remainder of his life. Before he could plant crops, however, it was necessary for him to break the greater part of his land as there were only eighteen acres under cultivation when the place came into his possession. As the years passed he added many improvements and the farm became in time one of the valuable properties of the township. He enlisted for service in the Civil war at Keokuk in Company A, First Iowa Volunteer Cavalry, and served for four years and three months. While in the army he contracted a disease from which he never recovered and which eventually caused his death, which occurred December 19, 1898. His wife survived for almost ten years, dying May 23, 1908.

Guy E. Davis was reared and educated in Hamilton township and remained with his parents until he was twenty-two years of age, when he purchased forty acres adjoining his father's farm in Hamilton township. After cultivating his land for one year he went to Missouri, where he rented a quarter section, which he operated for two years. As times were bad he was worse off financially at the end of that time than at the beginning, but he was not disheartened and in time retrieved his fortunes. He purchased eighty acres of land in Mercer county, Missouri, which he cultivated, at the same time serving as constable. His duties in that office required him to be in the saddle the greater part of the time and it was necessary for him to plow by moonlight. At the end of eight years he had his land paid for and was in quite comfortable circumstances. He served for twelve years in all as constable. At length he abandoned farming and removed to Pleasanton, where he is now engaged in the sale of feed, seed and grain and in dealing in real estate. He also gives much attention to collections and is likewise a notary public. He is recognized as a successful business man and is characterized by energy and sound judgment. He still owns his farm and also holds title to an additional forty acres near Cainesville, Missouri. He owns his home in Pleasanton, which he erected and also has another residence property here, which he rents. In addition to these holdings he owns the building in which his business is located and a garage.

On the 1st of January, 1895, Mr. Davis married Miss Effie A. Willis, a daughter of E. M. and Edwener (Hagen) Willis, both natives of Missouri. They are still living in Mercer county, that



state, where the father carried on agricultural pursuits during his active life. Mr. and Mrs. Davis have become the parents of four children, two of whom died in infancy, the others being: Raymond M., fourteen years of age; and Lloyd E., twelve years old.

Mr. Davis is a republican and has taken quite an active part in political affairs. Since coming to Pleasanton he has served as constable and marshal for five years and has also been a member of the town council and the school board. Fraternally he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, which he aided in organizing at Saline, Missouri. His religious faith is that of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints. He enjoys the full respect of all who are brought in contact with him and his business activities are a factor in the commercial expansion of Pleasanton.

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### FRANCIS VARGA.

Francis Varga, for many years a highly esteemed resident of Leon and Decatur county and honored with several positions of trust by his fellow citizens, was born on the 8th of August, 1817, in the city of Debreczen, Hungary, of the marriage of Stephen and Clara (Peczely) Varga. The mother was a daughter of Joseph Peczely, Sr., an eminent Presbyterian divine, and was a sister of Joseph Peczely, Jr., a distinguished professor of universal history, Latin and Greek. Stephen Varga, father of our subject, was professor of theology in the Presbyterian College at Debreczen, but in 1830 he passed away and from that time forward Joseph Peczely, Jr., an uncle, stood in the place of father to our subject.

In 1840 Francis Varga was admitted to the bar and began the practice of his profession in the southern part of Hungary. In 1848, when the Hungarian revolution broke out, he was appointed presiding judge of a special tribunal created for the punishment of treason. He was elected vice lord lieutenant of the county of Torontal and was given full power to act in said county by the government. Subsequently the Austrians regained their authority by the help of the Russians and Mr. Varga was at Villagos when Gorgey, one of the leading Hungarian generals, surrendered to the Russians. Mr. Varga, with others, succeeded in escaping and, disguising himself, went from place to place, seeking an opportunity to leave the country in safety. It was eleven months before he succeeded in his plans,





FRANCIS VARGA



escaping from Hungary by means of a forged passport. After stopping at Hamburg and Altona for six months, or in January, 1851, he went to London, where he spent another half year, hoping that circumstances might be so altered that it would be possible for him to return to his native land. As that was not to be, he, with others, decided to emigrate to the United States of America, where they might find the freedom that they sought. Some time previously L. Uhazy, who had been governor of the fortress of Komorn near Budapest, had emigrated to the United States from Hungary with forty countrymen and had called upon President Fillmore for advice as to the best place to settle. The president counseled him to locate in Iowa and accordingly Governor Uhazy and his followers made their way to Burlington and thence overland to Decatur county, forming a colony in New Buda township. When Mr. Varga and his three companions reached this country they continued their westward journey and joined Governor Uhazy and his colony in Decatur county. Mr. Varga settled on government land south of New Buda and there was actively engaged in agriculture until 1857, when he sold his land. He then removed to the southwest corner of Long Creek township, where he acquired land and farmed until the fall of 1864, when he was elected clerk of the court and clerk of the board of supervisors, holding those offices until 1866. He was unanimously nominated in that year for the office of county judge and in 1867 was his party's unanimous choice for treasurer but both elections went to the opposite party. Mr. Varga then returned to his farm and continued to follow agricultural pursuits. He was elected justice of the peace and for two years represented Long Creek township on the board of supervisors. He was also made school director and for some time was president of the school board, his varied public service being characterized by progressiveness, watchfulness for the public good and foresight. In 1871 he was elected county treasurer and in 1873 and 1875 was reelected, his services being thoroughly satisfactory to his constituents. In 1881 he was made manager of the abstract business and in 1892 he with his son, Stephen Varga, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work, purchased the abstract books for the sum of ten thousand dollars. He continued as part owner of the business and was active until his demise. He passed away on the 5th of April, 1902, and his demise was mourned by many who not only admired him but held him in high esteem for the many qualities of upright, courageous manhood that characterized his personality.

Mr. Varga was married in this county on the 4th of August, 1858, to Miss Mary Zander, the oldest child of Charles and Maria Zander.

Mrs. Varga was born on the 23d of June, 1842, at Wallo, Mecklenburg, and about 1852 accompanied her parents to America, the family home being established on a farm near Madison, Wisconsin. Subsequently, to escape the extremely cold winters, a removal was made to Mitchell county, Iowa, where they remained until 1855, when they moved southward, settling on a farm east of Terre Haute, in Decatur county. To Mr. and Mrs. Varga were born nine children, two of whom died in infancy, and Clara, the wife of John A. Frazier, passed away on the 17th of June, 1906. Six children survive: Stephen; Emma, the wife of D. E. Gatchell, of Omaha, Nebraska; Rosa, who married Byron Hamilton; Esther, who gave her hand in marriage to F. M. Coder; Mary, now Mrs. Frank N. Slade; and Nellie Dorn, of Des Moines, Iowa. Two sisters and a brother also survive Mrs. Varga, who passed away on the 3d of June, 1914, when nearly seventy-two years of age. In early womanhood she became a member of the Presbyterian church and on the 2d of June, 1866, aided in organizing the church of that denomination in Leon. For forty-eight years she was a faithful member of the congregation and took an active part in furthering its work.

Mr. Varga was stalwart in his support of the republican party and almost immediately after locating in Leon became prominent in the local councils of his party. For forty years he attended every state convention and his advice was sought by the state republican leaders, who knew that the success of the party in Decatur county was in no small measure due to Mr. Varga's untiring efforts in its behalf. He held a number of local offices and at all times manifested a keen sense of responsibility to the people and sought to discharge his duties so as to promote the general good. Religion was a most vital force in his life and he was a leader in the Presbyterian church, of which he was one of the charter members. He was very regular in attendance, gave liberally to its support and served ably as an officer of the church, but it was in the strength and goodness of his life as day by day he performed the duties that lay closest at hand that the sincerity of his Christian faith was most manifest. The love of liberty and the championship of the rights of the people that characterized him as a young man in Hungary and that eventually made it necessary for him to flee his native land were among his dominant traits throughout life, and equally marked was the moral courage that made him stand for what he thought was right no matter how great the risk that such action entailed. His strength of character was equalled by his kindness and thoughtfulness for others, and it was said that no one ever appealed to him for charity in vain, while

in his daily intercourse with his fellowmen he was kind and courteous. Although he had a great capacity for friendship and found much pleasure in the society of his friends, his greatest delight was in his family circle. He was successful in business and gained financial independence, but he was remembered not only as an able business man but also as a citizen who was at all times willing to aid in any movement to promote the welfare of the community, as a man who freely gave of his time and thought to the advancement and progress of his city and county, and his keen intellect and moral courage made him a worthy leader. He was a fine scholar and was probably the peer of any Latinist in the state of Iowa. He realized fully the great part that a system of public education plays in a democracy and was one of the staunchest friends of the public schools, doing much in their behalf.

In 1896, in company with his son Stephen Varga, he returned to Hungary and visited his native city. While there he gave expression to his love for his adopted country and also to the affection which he still felt for the land of his birth and on his return home brought with him some Hungarian soil, which, according to his desire, was placed under his head when he was prepared for burial. He passed away when almost eighty-five years of age after a life lived in accordance with the highest standards of manhood, and his memory is still cherished by many who knew him.

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### GEORGE R. BATHE.

George R. Bathe, who for many years owned and operated the Eagle Grove farm, on section 29, Bloomington township, removed to Kansas the winter of 1890-1 and subsequently became a resident of Oklahoma, where he still resides. His birth occurred in Moultrie county, Illinois, on the 20th of March, 1842, and he is a son of James and Melinda (Powell) Bathe, both natives of Illinois, the former born in Vermilion county.

George R. Bathe was left an orphan when but ten years of age and when fourteen years old came to Decatur county, Iowa, with his brother-in-law, A. J. McClain, with whom he made his home for years. He received a good common-school education but on the 15th of August, 1861, when nineteen years of age, he enlisted in Company M, Third Iowa Volunteer Cavalry, for service in the Civil war and participated in all of the engagements in which that regi-



ment took part. Although he was once slightly wounded he never missed a roll call and because of gallant conduct was made sergeant major in 1863. On the 9th of August, 1865, he was honorably discharged with his regiment at Atlanta, Georgia, and on the 20th of that month he was mustered out at Davenport, Iowa. He returned to Decatur county and in the fall of 1865 took up his residence in Decatur City, where he remained for three years, removing to Bloomington township in the spring of 1868. He settled upon his farm, which was known as Eagle Grove farm, on section 29, that township, near Tuskeega. He also owned five hundred acres of land on sections 22 and 23 and was an extensive breeder of thoroughbred shorthorn cattle. He sold many head of registered stock and did much to improve the grade of cattle raised in Bloomington township. There were many who regretted his departure, when in the winter of 1890-1 he removed to Kansas, whence he went to Oklahoma.

Mr. Bathe was married on the 13th of October, 1865, to Miss M. A. McDonald, a daughter of Malay and Mary (Ferguson) McDonald. To this union were born six children: Mrs. Nora Morris, of Denver, Colorado; Mrs. Charles T. Rhodes; Irvin L., a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Avon, who is married and who lives in Lenapah, Oklahoma; Carrie, the wife of Ernest Shepherd, of Pueblo, Colorado; and Charles W., of Coffeyville, Kansas.

Mr. Bathe is a republican and has been quite prominent in local public affairs. He has been a devoted husband and father and the family are closely bound together by ties of mutual affection. His genial nature and great-hearted generosity have endeared him to those with whom he has come in contact, while his unswerving integrity and strict honesty have won the sincere respect of all who know him.

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### ULYSSES GRANT GRIFFITH.

Ulysses Grant Griffith is the efficient agent at Davis City for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad and not only looks carefully after the interests of the company which he represents but also strives to accommodate the public. He was born in Ringgold county, Iowa, on the 20th of December, 1862, a son of James J. and Susan (Higgins) Griffith. The father was born in Pennsylvania of Irish and Welsh stock but the mother was born in Illinois and was of Dutch descent. Their marriage occurred near Palestine, Illinois,

and in 1848 they removed to Mashaka county, Iowa, where the father engaged in farming. In 1855 they took up their residence in Ringgold county on eighty acres of land which the father had entered from the government. Subsequently he bought additional land and lived upon his farm until 1900, when he removed to Delphos, Iowa, where he lived retired until his death in 1908. His widow survived until the 25th of January, 1915, passing away then at the home of a daughter in Redding, Iowa.

Ulysses G. Griffith attended district school and assisted in the operation of the homestead until he was twenty-two years of age. He then took a course in telegraphy at the Iowa Business College in Des Moines and in 1884 was stationed at Grant City, Missouri, as a helper in the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy ticket office. After remaining there eighteen months he went to Indianola, Iowa, as night operator and three months later was promoted day operator at King City, Missouri. He worked there for two years, after which he was for one year an extra man. He was sent to Lacona, Iowa, as agent and operator at the end of that time and about two years later came to Davis City as agent. He not only represents the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad here but is also local agent for the Adams Express Company. He has quite heavy responsibility, as much live stock, freight and express are shipped from this point, and there is also a fair amount of passenger traffic. The local office is also a night telegraph office and C. E. Smith is the able night operator. Since Mr. Griffith has been at Davis City the station has been remodeled and there is a mile of side track in the local yards and also a coaling and watering point at the city. Mr. Griffith has been in the employ of the Burlington road for over thirty years and has won commendation from his superiors for his trustworthiness and efficiency, while the people of Davis City appreciate his courtesy.

On the 19th of December, 1888, Mr. Griffith married Miss Alice W. Harris, a daughter of William and Mary (Chilton) Harris, both of whom were born in Kentucky, the former of Scotch-Irish ancestry. They were married in that state and in 1872 the father died in Casey county, Kentucky. His widow and children subsequently emigrated westward to Missouri, locating at Stanberry when Mrs. Griffith was but five years of age. Mrs. Harris passed away in Missouri in 1901. Mr. and Mrs. Griffith have one child, Eugene, born on the 27th of September, 1891, who is employed as a fireman on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad and who resides with his parents.

Mr. Griffith is a republican but has never sought office as a reward for his party loyalty. He belongs to the Order of Railway Teleg-

raphers of St. Louis and is a member of a number of lodges, including the Masonic order, the Yeomen and the Modern Woodmen of America. His wife holds membership in the Order of Eastern Star and in the Yeomen. Both are affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church of Davis City and their lives are in harmony with their religious professions. Mr. Griffith thoroughly understands every detail of his work and as he gives it his undivided attention all of his duties are discharged promptly and capably.

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### JOHN W. FROST.

John W. Frost, a well known stock-raiser and farmer of Eden township, is a native of this county, his birth having occurred in Center township. He was born on the 21st of January, 1872, of the marriage of W. H. and Jane (Varner) Frost, both natives of Licking county, Ohio, the former born near Fallsburg. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, came to this county in 1864, locating in Center township, near Leon, where he purchased land, which he continued to operate until 1907. In that year he removed to Leon, where he is still residing, and he owns one hundred and sixty acres of excellent land in Eden township. His wife also survives. They were married in their native county and to them have been born the following children: Anna Bell, now the wife of E. S. Evans, a farmer residing near Garden Grove; Jennie, who gave her hand in marriage to James Perry, who is farming in Nebraska; Ella, the wife of William P. Gittinger, an agriculturist living west of Leon; John W.; W. M., who is following agricultural pursuits in Eden township; Alice, who married John Evans, an agriculturist of Eden township; and May, the wife of Wallace Patton, a farmer of Nebraska.

John W. Frost attended school in Center township and continued to reside upon the home farm until some years after his marriage. He then began his independent career, purchasing eighty acres of land, which he cultivated until 1912. In 1910 he purchased the one hundred and twenty acres on section 14, Eden township, which is still his home farm, and now cultivates two hundred acres in all, from which he derives a gratifying annual income. He carries on both general farming and stock-raising, finding that the two occupations coordinate well. He also has other interests, as he is serving as president of the Mutual Telephone Company of Decatur county.

Everything which he does is done to the best of his ability and his energy and progressiveness are indicated by the excellent improvements on his farm and the good condition in which everything is kept.

On the 6th of December, 1905, Mr. Frost was married to Miss Cecil Bracewell, a daughter of Edward and Iantha (Snow) Bracewell. The father was born in Ohio and after his removal to this county he operated a farm near Lineville for two years and then conducted and owned a hardware store in that town for thirteen years, after which he again devoted his attention to farming, following that occupation until his demise on the 8th of January, 1904. He was a son of John Bracewell, a native of England. The mother of Mrs. Frost was of American descent and was born in Red Wing, Minnesota, but her marriage was celebrated at Blakesburg, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Frost have two children: Julian Bracewell, who was born June 21, 1908, and is attending district school No. 1 of Eden township; and Miles William, who was born August 6, 1911.

Mr. Frost is a republican in politics and has served for two years as clerk and for four years as assessor of Eden township, while he is now serving his second term as director of his school district. Both he and his wife are members of the Church of Christ of Eden township and take an influential part in its work. The gratifying measure of success which he has achieved is due solely to his well directed industry and his careful management of his affairs, and he is generally respected and esteemed throughout the county.

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### JAMES C. KESHLEAR.

Since 1911 James C. Keshlear has devoted his time to farming in New Buda township and has met with gratifying success in his work. He was born in Jackson county, Missouri, near Pink Hill, August 4, 1856, a son of Jacob and Sarah B. (Riggs) Keshlear. The father was born in Missouri, of German ancestry, and the mother was born in Kentucky, of Scotch stock. They were married in Missouri and the father followed agricultural pursuits in that state. He passed away at the age of forty-five years, when our subject was a child of five years. The mother lived to be eighty-nine years of age and died in Kansas City in 1907 at the home of her son, W. G. Keshlear, a detective of that city.

James C. Keshlear attended the district schools and also the schools of Independence, Missouri. After his textbooks were put



aside he devoted his entire time to the work of the homestead, remaining there with his mother until he was about thirty years of age. He then removed to Decatur county, Iowa, and engaged in the mercantile business here from 1885 until 1900. He clerked for his brother, G. B. Keshlear, for three years and when the latter sold out our subject opened a store, which he conducted successfully until 1900. In that year he went to Kansas City and worked with his brother, who operated a private detective agency there. James C. Keshlear remained in that business until 1911 and made an excellent record as a detective. He then returned to Davis City and purchased his present farm of eighty acres on section 3, New Buda township. He carries on general farming and stock-raising and derives a good annual income from his business. His farm is well improved and everything is kept in excellent repair and in his work he is always ready to use new and improved methods and machinery.

On the 1st of November, 1891, Mr. Keshlear was united in marriage to Miss Althea Bolon, a daughter of James F. and Elizabeth (Clark) Bolon, further mention of whom occurs elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Keshlear have four children. William, who was born March 18, 1894, was graduated from the Davis City high school with the class of 1915 and is at home with his parents. Tassie Elizabeth died when six months old. Garland Riggs, who was born October 12, 1898, and Susan Blenadine, born August 10, 1900, are both attending the Davis City high school.

Mr. Keshlear is a democrat and for two terms served on the council of Davis City, while for three years he was a member of the school board. He belongs to the Odd Fellows and Homesteaders of Davis City and has many friends both within and without those organizations. In all that he has attempted he has been successful and his sterling character has won him the sincere respect and esteem of all who have come in contact with him.

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### M. F. GRIMES.

Among the most aggressive and successful business men of Leon is M. F. Grimes, a member of the firm of Kraft Grimes & Company, which operates a chain of men's furnishings stores in Iowa. He was born in Champaign, Illinois, on the 14th of February, 1864, a son of E. S. Grimes, who was a native of Indiana. The father removed



with his family from Illinois to Missouri and after residing there for seven years took up his residence in Weldon, Decatur county, Iowa, in 1876. Subsequently he located at Davis City and for many years worked at harness making there, although he also engaged in farming to some extent. He belonged to the Masonic fraternity and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and both he and his wife held membership in the Christian church. He passed away in 1912 when seventy-four years of age, but his widow is still residing at Davis City. They were the parents of four sons and three daughters, all of whom are living, two sisters residing at Weldon and the others besides our subject living in Missouri, Troy, Kansas, and Arlington, Nebraska.

M. F. Grimes was reared in Missouri and Iowa and received a good common-school education during his boyhood and youth. He also learned the harness maker's trade, as did his three brothers, and two of them are still following that occupation, while the other is engaged in the clothing business. M. F. Grimes located in Leon in October, 1891, and for a number of years was in the employ of Michael Mayer, who conducted a clothing store in Leon, from 1882 until 1901, when Kraft Grimes & Company bought him out. Mr. Grimes has since given practically his entire attention to the work of directing the affairs of the company and their annual business has reached a large figure. They operate stores in ten Iowa towns, in one town in Illinois and in one in Missouri and have headquarters in Chicago. The managers of all of the stores meet in a semi-annual convention and practically all of the goods for the various stores are purchased at one time, which enables the company to buy to better advantage. The firm also owns a chain of ten-cent stores in Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Illinois and Iowa and is constantly seeking to systematize and to expand its business. The Leon store employs from two to nine clerks according to the season and carries a full line of clothing, shoes, men's furnishings and accessories. Its patrons are among the representative men of the city and Kraft Grimes & Company have a well earned reputation for fair dealing. Mr. Grimes also owns a store at Kellerton, Ringgold county, Iowa, known as the Grimes, Quiett Clothing Company, and is recognized as one of the substantial citizens of Decatur county.

He was married October 7, 1887, to Miss Minnie Lorey, a representative of a family mentioned elsewhere in this work. She was born in Leon and passed away here in 1910, leaving four children, three sons and a daughter. Leslie, who is employed in the store at Leon, is married and has a son, Paul. Cecile is keeping house for her father, Forrest and Marion are both at home.

Mr. Grimes is a republican but has never had time to engage actively in politics. Fraternally he belongs to the Knights of Pythias at Leon, and he has been a member of the Christian church since sixteen years of age. He is respected for his unquestioned business ability, honored for his integrity and held in warm regard because of his agreeable personality.

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### ERNEST P. HAMILTON.

Ernest P. Hamilton, proprietor of the Good View Farm, embracing one hundred and sixty acres in Garden Grove township, enjoys an enviable reputation as one of the successful and enterprising agriculturists of Decatur county and is prominently known as a dealer in high-grade stock. His birth occurred in Bloomington, McLean county, Illinois, on the 12th of September, 1866, his parents being John and Rebecca (Pritchard) Hamilton. The paternal grandparents were Joshua and Jane (Craig) Hamilton, the former born near Connellsville, Fayette county, Pennsylvania, September 6, 1793, and the latter in Washington county, Pennsylvania. She was a daughter of John Craig, who was born in Ireland and was of English extraction. He married Miss Elizabeth Johnson, a native of Washington county, Pennsylvania, by whom he had nine children. John Hamilton, the father of our subject, was born in Harrison county, Ohio, on the 22d of November, 1820, and still survives, being remarkably strong and active for a man of his advanced age. The demise of his wife occurred on the 6th of December, 1892. To them were born seven children, as follows: Sallie, who is the wife of B. F. Funk; Mary, the deceased wife of Andrew Wilson; Alice, who gave her hand in marriage to J. J. Dalbey; Nellie, who is the wife of W. E. P. Anderson, an attorney by profession; Belle, who married H. V. Moore, a banker; Elizabeth, the wife of C. H. C. Peirson; and Ernest P., of this review.

The last named acquired his education in the public schools of his native county and was reared to manhood on the home farm. He continued farming in Illinois until 1895, when he came to Decatur county, Iowa, and purchased a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in Garden Grove township, which he has operated continuously to the present time and has brought to a high state of cultivation and improvement. He is engaged in general farming and is one of the most prominent dealers in registered stock in the county. His stand-

ard bred trotting, English Shire and Percheron horses, of which he makes a specialty, have the reputation of being second to none in this or any other county in the west. Mr. Hamilton is a lover of good horses and, having dealt in standard bred animals on his farm for twenty years, is well qualified to pass judgment on them, his opinion being generally accepted as authority. He likewise gives considerable attention to raising Jersey Red hogs and in all of his undertakings has met with a gratifying and well merited measure of prosperity. There is an excellent orchard on his property and the improvements include wells and windmills and a handsome residence, large barns and outbuildings, all of which he erected.

On the 12th of September, 1889, Mr. Hamilton was united in marriage to Miss Alice Armstrong, a daughter of John and Mary Armstrong, of McLean county, Illinois. To them have been born five children, namely: Ruth Bell, John Armstrong, Ernest Peirson, Rex Donald and Herman Lester. Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton have now resided in this county for two decades and have won an extensive circle of warm friends within its borders.

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### PROFESSOR J. A. GUNSOLLEY, B. S.

Professor J. A. Gunsolley, principal of the commercial school of Graceland College, has been connected with that institution since its establishment and practically his entire life has been spent in educational work. His birth occurred in Delaware county, Iowa, on the 9th of July, 1862, and he is a son of Noah M. and Mary E. (Tyrrell) Gunsolley. His paternal grandfather was a native of Germany and his maternal ancestors were English Puritans. His father was born in Ohio and his mother in Vermont, but they became residents of Illinois and later removed to Iowa, arriving here when this state was still largely a frontier district. In 1869 they took up their residence in Mills county, where the father became known as a successful agriculturist. Subsequently the family resided in Harrison and Shelby counties, Iowa, and eventually the parents took up their abode at Lamoni, where the father died in 1904. Four years later his widow passed away at Independence, Missouri, at the home of her son, J. F. Both parents were consistent members of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints. To them were born seven sons and three daughters, those besides our subject being: George H., a farmer

residing near Defiance, Iowa, who is active in the work of the church; Elder Jacob L., a farmer of Mapleton, Kansas, who is also a minister in the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints; Elder James E., of Mondamin, Iowa, pastor of the local church; Jerome W., a priest of the church who is located at Kansas City, Missouri; J. F., an engineer of Independence, Missouri, who is an influential member of the church at that place; Victor, who is with the Herald Publishing Company and is also a local minister and priest; Jerusha, the wife of George Sayles, a resident of Lamoni and both members of the church; Alice O., the wife of E. W. Hill, of Aurelia, Iowa, who is station agent there, proprietor of the Hotel Lockin and also national secretary of the Order of Telegraphers; and Stella M., now Mrs. S. R. Wiley, of Arma, Kansas, and a consistent member of the church. Mr. Wiley is a successful contractor and builder.

Professor Gunsolley received his education in the public schools of Defiance, Iowa, in the Western Normal College of Shenandoah, Iowa, in the Highland Park College of Des Moines, where he took his post-graduate work, and in Kansas City, where he studied under Professor S. W. Tamblyn. In March, 1889, he came to Lamoni as superintendent of the public schools, which office he filled with ability for five years. For one year he taught in a business college of Salem, Massachusetts. When Graceland College was founded he became connected therewith and has ever since been identified with the school, being a member of the faculty during the entire time, with the exception of two years. For three years he served as acting president, but his greatest interest is in the development of the commercial department of which he is principal. He understands thoroughly the demands of the business world and has so arranged the courses in his department that its graduates are well fitted for filling good positions. He is a thorough and efficient teacher himself and also has the faculty of directing and overseeing the work of others, which insures the excellence of the instruction in the various classes in the commercial school.

Mr. Gunsolley has been twice married, his first union being with Miss May Fisher, who passed away in 1893, leaving three children. Lucy is chief clerk at the State University of Iowa and is also senior in that institution, where she is preparing for the work of a teacher of languages. She was the delegate from her chapter of the Alpha Delta Pi sorority to the national convention at Berkeley, California. Harold M. is also a student at the State University of Iowa and is private secretary to the assistant dean of men. Marjorie is attending high school. His second wife was in her maidenhood Miss Mattie



Wight Brown, and to their union have been born two children, Cecil and Dorothy.

Mr. Gunsolley is a democrat in his political allegiance and has been a member of the local school board, taking great interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the public schools. He is a high priest of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints and for several years was pastor of the local branch. He is very active in various lines of church work but is especially interested in the young people's organization known as Zion's Religio-Literary Society and since 1895 has been president of that society. During the summers he devotes his time to the furtherance of the interests of that organization, of Graceland College and of the Sunday-school work of the church. He has gained quite a reputation as a lecturer and has spoken in a number of states. For many years he has been connected with the church board of publication as secretary and his services in that capacity have been of great value. Professor Gunsolley is also a director of the Decatur County Historical Society and believes firmly in the wisdom of preserving the records of the county and in stimulating the interest in local history. As a teacher and through his connection with the work of the church Professor Gunsolley has exerted a wide influence throughout the state of Iowa and that influence has invariably been on the side of right and justice.

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### THOMAS F. KERRINS.

Thomas F. Kerrins, who is conducting a garage and a horse livery at Pleasanton, Iowa, also deals quite extensively in land. He was born in Livingston county, Illinois, on the 8th of January, 1890, a son of Charles and Viola (McCrystal) Kerrins, natives respectively of Ireland and of Canada. When but two years of age the father was brought to this country by his parents and upon growing to mature years decided to devote his life to agricultural pursuits. He farmed in Livingston county, Illinois, for many years, after which he removed to Decatur county, Iowa, where he cultivated land for two years. He then went to Kossuth county, where he is still engaged in farming. He likewise operated a livery stable for six years. His wife also survives.

Thomas F. Kerrins was reared and educated in Livingston county, Illinois, and remained with his parents until he was twenty-two years of age. At the end of that time he removed to Lyman county, South



Dakota, and for a year operated a farm, after which he came to Pleasanton, this county, and purchased land which he farmed for one year. Since that time he has bought, sold and traded land and has been very successful in that line. On March 8, 1915, he engaged in the automobile business, becoming the agent for the Overland car. He operates a well equipped garage and also conducts a horse livery. He is aggressive and has excellent business judgment and there is no doubt that he will succeed in his new undertaking.

On the 8th of January, 1914, Mr. Kerrins married Miss Gladys Sheffler, a daughter of James and Annie (Parker) Sheffler, pioneers of Kankakee, Illinois, who later removed to Remington, Indiana. There the father operated a livery stable for eighteen years, after which he went to Manilla, Iowa, where for four years he was engaged in the hardware business. At the end of that time he came to Decatur county and purchased land in Hamilton township, to the cultivation of which he has since given his time.

Mr. Kerrins is a democrat and is stalwart in his support of that party. His religious faith is that of the Quakers, or Friends, and fraternally he is associated with the Masonic order and the Modern Woodmen of America. He owns excellent residence property and one acre of ground in Pleasanton and also owns residence lots in Leon. Although he is one of the youngest business men in Pleasanton he has gained a measure of success that a man much his senior might well envy and his friends predict for him continued achievement.

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### WILLIAM S. WARNOCK.

William S. Warnock was for a number of years a successful merchant of Davis City but for some time previous to his demise he carried on farming on a large scale in Burrell township. He was prominent in public affairs and represented his district ably in the state legislature. A native of Beaver county, Pennsylvania, he was born on the 2d of June, 1824, a son of James and Mary (Sloan) Warnock, both likewise natives of the Keystone state. The father died when our subject was but six years of age, leaving his widow with a family of six children.

William S. Warnock went to live with an aunt in Ohio and was there reared and educated, attending school at Lowell and Salem, that state. He desired to become a lawyer and began his legal study

in the office of S. W. Gilson, of Canfield, Ohio, and in 1853 was admitted to the bar. He began the practice of his profession in Lowell but subsequently removed to Canfield, where he remained until 1855. In that year he came west as he was in poor health and his physicians advised a change of climate. He made the journey by rail to Cleveland, thence by water to Detroit and then by rail to Davenport by way of Chicago. He visited Iowa City and Des Moines, which was then but a small village, and located at Chariton, this state, although he had intended to go as far as the mountains. He taught a select school during the summer and fall of 1855 and then removed to Pleasanton, Decatur county, where for two years he practiced law. He was then for a like period of time engaged in the mercantile business in Davis City, being one of the first merchants of that town. He returned to Pleasanton, where he resided until 1872, when he again moved to Davis City and became a member of the firm of Bowman & Warnock, who successfully conducted a general mercantile store. In the fall of 1878 he was elected to the state legislature and he proved an efficient member of the seventeenth general assembly. On the expiration of his term he removed to a fine farm of three hundred acres on section 34, Burrell township, where he devoted his attention to stock-raising during the remainder of his life. He made many improvements upon his place and received a handsome annual income from his farm.

Mr. Warnock was married on the 2d of October, 1856, to Miss Sarah Davis, a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Van Meter) Davis, natives of Highland county, Ohio. In 1854 her father removed with his family to Decatur county, Iowa, and purchased land in Burrell and New Buda townships. He founded the town of Davis City, which was named in his honor. Both he and his wife died there. To Mr. and Mrs. Warnock were born five children, namely: Alice, who died December 6, 1896; Viola; Lillie; Blanche; and Belle, who passed away September 11, 1874.

Mr. Warnock was a democrat and fraternally belonged to Remembrance Lodge, No. 375, A. F. & A. M., at Davis City and Lamoni Chapter, No. 33, R. A. M. He was liberal in his religious views. His demise, which occurred on the 22d of January, 1907, when he was eighty-two years of age, was deeply regretted by his many friends and his memory is still cherished. He was a man of undoubted ability and was a leader in shaping public opinion, his excellent education, combined with his natural keenness of intellect, making his opinions of unusual value. Throughout his life he was guided by the same public spirit that prompted him to enlist in the

Civil war on the 2d of June, 1864. He was a member of Company C, Forty-eighth Iowa Infantry, and served until October 21st of that year, his regiment being on guard duty at Rock Island the greater part of the time.

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### ELMER O. STEARNS.

Elmer O. Stearns, cashier of the Van Wert State Bank, which he assisted in organizing, is a native of Decatur county, as he was born near Garden Grove. His birth occurred on the 11th of March, 1879, and his parents are Jonathan and Carrie S. (Bates) Stearns, natives of Illinois and of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, respectively. The father removed to Illinois at an early day in the history of that state, locating near Decatur, where he farmed until 1875, when he removed to Decatur county, Iowa, renting land for a few years, after which he purchased one hundred and eight acres in Franklin township east of Van Wert. He devoted his energies to the improvement and operation of his farm until 1903, when he retired from active life and removed to Van Wert, where he and his wife are still living. They have two children, Edith, who married E. W. Fierce, and Elmer O.

The latter was reared in this county and received his early education in the district schools, but later attended Simpson College at Indianola, Iowa, where he took a commercial course. On leaving school he returned to Van Wert and for a year clerked in a store. In 1900 he organized the Bank of Van Wert, becoming its cashier, a position which he has since filled, and on the 4th of January, 1915, the institution was made a state bank. It is capitalized for twenty-five thousand dollars and its deposits total two hundred thousand dollars. Its business has grown steadily and its prosperity is due in no small measure to the sound judgment and financial acumen of its cashier, Elmer O. Stearns. The president of the institution is W. F. Blair, the vice president, Lester Gould, and the assistant cashier, C. G. Jones, and in addition to the officers the directors are M. F. Thompson, Maurice Brown and G. S. Barr. Mr. Stearns is treasurer of the Van Wert Rural Telephone Company, is a director of the Iowa State Bank at Osceola, the State Savings Bank at Sharpsburg, Iowa, and a stockholder in the Weldon Iowa Savings Bank and the Exchange Bank of Le Roy.

On the 16th of October, 1901, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Stearns and Miss Ida S. Anderson, a daughter of Thomas J. and Hannah (Robertson) Anderson. Her parents were natives of Ohio, but were pioneers of Lee county, Iowa, where the father engaged in farming. Subsequently they removed to Wayne county, Iowa, and there he continued to follow agricultural pursuits until his demise, which occurred in 1902. His wife is still living and makes her home at Promise City. Mr. and Mrs. Stearns have two children, namely, Lois M., twelve years of age; and Esther M., a child of four years.

Mr. Stearns is a republican and for the last ten years has served as town treasurer, while for five years he has been school director. He is prominent in local fraternal circles, belonging to the Masonic order, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. His religious faith is that of the Methodist church and he is serving as president of the board of trustees of the local church. He has erected a fine modern home in which he resides and is recognized as one of the substantial citizens of Van Wert. The fact that for two years he held the position of secretary of Group Nine Iowa Bankers Association is proof that he is well known and highly respected in financial circles. He has made the interests of his community his interests and no effort to secure the advancement of Van Wert and Decatur county fails to secure his hearty cooperation.

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### JAMES H. COZAD.

James H. Cozad, who passed away in 1901, was for many years a farmer of this county and held a high place in the estimation of those who knew him. He was born in Indiana, March 25, 1846, a son of Alice and Emeline (Swank) Cozad, more detailed mention of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Our subject was reared and educated in Morgan township, this county, and remained with his parents upon the homestead until he reached the age of twenty-three years. He then operated a rented farm for one year, after which he purchased an eighty acre tract on section 34, Eden township. He at once began operating and improving his farm and made it in time one of the best developed properties of his locality. He followed general agricultural pursuits and his industry and the care with which he managed his affairs enabled him to gain a competence.



On the 19th of January, 1869, Mr. Cozad married Miss Rebecca E. Still, a daughter of Merideth and Elizabeth (Sanders) Still, natives of Montgomery county, Missouri. Mrs. Cozad was born in that state August 17, 1846, but in the same year was brought by her parents to Decatur county, Iowa. Her father entered land west of Leon, which he later sold. He then removed to Eden township and purchased land adjoining our subject's farm. Mr. Still passed away in 1863 at the age of sixty-eight years and was survived until 1869 by his widow. Mr. and Mrs. Cozad became the parents of three children: Meredith S., deceased; Cora A., now Mrs. George Moore and a resident of South Dakota; and Millie V., the wife of John Barrett, a farmer of this county.

Mr. Cozad was loyal in his support of the principles and measures of the democratic party and served efficiently as trustee of his township. His religious faith was that of the Methodist church and the teachings of that organization guided him in his relations with his fellows. He was a man of unquestioned integrity and his many admirable traits of character gained him the warm regard of many. His demise, which occurred on the 10th of June, 1901, was sincerely mourned and his memory is still cherished by his friends.

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### FOREST L. LOREY.

Forest L. Lorey, who has served Decatur county ably as sheriff, was born on the 4th of October, 1879, in Leon, that county, of the marriage of Samuel and Catherine (Penniwell) Lorey. The father, who was born in Ohio, removed to Decatur county, Iowa, when a young man and here followed his trade, that of carpentering. As the years passed he established himself in the contracting and building business and erected many of the important structures in the county. To him and his wife were born ten children: Iunice, who died in infancy; Frank P.; Sallie, who married William White; S. W.; Minnie, who became the wife of Mark Grimes; May, who gave her hand in marriage to J. W. Chew; Glenn C.; Claud L.; Forest L.; and Helen, who married Charles W. Wheeler. The wife and mother passed away in 1904.

Forest L. Lorey received his education in the public and high schools of Leon and in his youth became an apprentice to the carpenter's trade, which he mastered thoroughly. He worked in connection with his father at carpentering and contracting until 1912, when he



was elected sheriff of Decatur county on the republican ticket. He became the candidate of his party for reelection in the fall of 1914 and as he was successful at the polls is now serving his second term. He makes an excellent sheriff, as he is determined and fearless, and he has been very successful in protecting the life and property of law-abiding citizens.

In 1905 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Lorey and Miss Grace McDowell, a daughter of John W. McDowell, of Davis City, Iowa. To this union have been born four children; Russell; Clarice; Hubert, who died in infancy; and Joe. Mr. Lorey is a stalwart republican and is at all times ready to support his political belief by logical argument. He is identified with the Knights of Pythias, in which he has served as chancellor commander, and with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He has many sincere friends, who value highly his good opinion, and throughout his county he is held in high esteem both as an official and as a man.

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### J. H. ROBINSON.

J. H. Robinson, who, with his son, owns an excellent drug store in Davis City, was born in Dover, Illinois on the 30th of March, 1846, a son of Dr. William and Sarah (Zearing) Robinson, natives of Pennsylvania. The father became a resident of Illinois in an early day in the history of that state and there began the practice of medicine, having prepared for the work of a physician by study in Findlay, Ohio. He continued to reside in Illinois during the remainder of his life and gained a large and representative practice. He passed away in 1890, but was survived by his widow until 1903.

J. H. Robinson was reared in Dover, Illinois, and after completing the course offered in the public schools there attended Jennings Seminary at Aurora, that state. Subsequently he read medicine with his father for some time and then took up the study of pharmacy and in partnership with his father opened a drug store at Dover, Illinois, with which he was connected until 1877. In that year he went to Princeton, Illinois, and in 1879 he arrived in Davis City, Decatur county. He opened a drug store here, which he has operated continuously since and which is the only establishment of its kind in the town. He has taken his son Claude W. into partnership and they not only have a good patronage in Davis City but also have many

customers from the country around, as they have built up a reputation for a high quality of goods, reasonable prices and fair dealing.

In April, 1873, Mr. Robinson married Miss Martha J. Woodmansee, a daughter of Joseph and Delilah (Kanard) Woodmansee, natives of Ohio. Her father, who was a farmer and veterinary surgeon, went to the vicinity of Princeton, Illinois, many years ago and after following agricultural pursuits for some time removed to Princeton, where he engaged in the practice of his profession. After retiring from active life he took up his residence in Leon, this county, where he passed away in 1892. His wife survived for two years. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson have four children, as follows. Claude W., who is a graduate of the College of Pharmacy of Northwestern University at Chicago, is his father's partner in the drug business. H. L., who is an alumnus of Highland Park College, is a dentist and is located in Des Moines, Iowa. W. J., a graduate of the Dental College of Northwestern University, is also practicing in Des Moines. R. H., who took his professional work in the Kansas City Dental College, is practicing in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Mr. Robinson is a democrat and has served conscientiously and ably as a member of the school board and as a member of the town council. Fraternally he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and to the Rebekahs, and the beliefs which guide his life are those which are held by the Methodist Episcopal church. He is respected as a successful business man, esteemed as a public-spirited citizen and held in warm regard personally.

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### EDGAR E. BELL.

Edgar E. Bell, the senior member of the firm of Bell & Painter, druggists of Leon, was born in this city on the 15th of August, 1875, a son of John and Mary A. (Reefy) Bell, a sketch of whose lives appears elsewhere in this work. Our subject attended the public schools and later was a student in the College of Pharmacy of the Northwestern University of Chicago, from which he was graduated on the 17th of June, 1897. For three and a half years he was in the employ of W. A. Alexander, but later he worked in the drug store which was conducted by W. E. Myers & Company, who in 1898 had purchased the business from T. E. Horner. When W. E. Myers & Company became the proprietors of the business they located on the west side of Main street, but Bell & Robinson, their

successors, who bought the business in 1906, purchased the fine building in which the store is at present and which measures twenty-four feet front and eighty feet deep. Bell & Robinson were succeeded by Bell & Painter, who have made the store a credit to the city of Leon. For five years they have sold the Rexall goods and their store is the only Rexall store in Decatur county, which fact gives them considerable prestige. Not only is Mr. Bell a registered pharmacist, but he also employs another registered pharmacist and the prescription department of the store is most carefully and accurately conducted. In 1914 they installed a new fountain and on the opening day, April 4, of that year, over thirteen hundred people visited the store, each receiving a souvenir of the occasion. The firm is prepared to serve an elaborate fountain menu, one that compares favorably with that offered by city establishments.

Mr. Bell married Miss Hattie Haskett, a native of Leon, Decatur county, and a daughter of the late E. W. Haskett, who was born in Wabash county, Indiana, on the 23d of October, 1848. In 1853 he removed with his parents to the vicinity of Keokuk, Lee county, Iowa, and was reared in that locality. After attending the public schools he entered the Mount Pleasant high school, from which he was graduated in due time and subsequently he was a student for several terms in Whittier College. After teaching for a number of years he began the study of law in the office of Hon. Scott Howell of Keokuk, and in 1872 was admitted to the bar. Two years later he married Miss Jennie Lester, of Salem, Iowa, and the following year removed to Leon, Iowa, where he began the practice of his profession. He possessed a fine mind and was a convincing speaker before the court and as the years passed won distinction as a criminal lawyer. He was prominent in politics and in 1884 was appointed by President Arthur United States attorney for the territory of Alaska, while in the same year he was urged by the Iowa delegation for the supreme court bench, which shows the high estimation placed upon his ability and legal learning by those who were best acquainted with his career. He organized the federal judiciary of Alaska but only remained in that territory for about a year. He resigned in 1885 and was returning home when he fell from the car at Needles, California, and was killed. He belonged to the Masonic order, the Knights of Pythias, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Congregational church, associations which indicate much concerning the principles that governed his life. His wife, who was a graduate of Whittier College and a woman of fine scholarship, taught in the Leon schools for ten years following his demise and lived until 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Bell have

two children, both in school: Edgar Haskett, who was born in 1907; and Jennie Lester, born in 1909.

Mr. Bell is a staunch republican and was the first alderman elected from his ward after Leon became a city of the second class. He is well known in Masonic circles, as he belongs to the blue lodge, the chapter and the commandery at Leon and the Mystic Shrine at Davenport, and his fraternal connections also identify him with the Knights of Pythias and with the Modern Woodmen of America. His wife holds membership in the Order of the Eastern Star and is also a member of the Congregational church, in whose work she takes a praiseworthy interest. Mr. Bell is an excellent business man, combining the power of initiative with discretion and sound judgment, and his drug store is recognized as one of the best in Decatur county.

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### GEORGE HERBERT DERRY.

Among the enterprising and prosperous business men of Decatur county is George Herbert Derry, who is proprietor of the Lamoni Auto Company, operates a fully equipped garage and also deals in harness and saddlery. He was born in Dodge county, Nebraska, in 1870, a son of George Derry, whose birth occurred in Stafford, Staffordshire, England, July 18, 1824. The paternal grandparents of our subject were Charles and Amelia Derry, the latter of whom died when their son George was but eighteen months of age. When ten years old he was apprenticed to the harness maker's and leather manufacturer's trade and he became an expert workman in those lines. He worked for eight years in London and also lived for a time in Walsall, England, but in 1856 he emigrated with his family to America, landing at Boston, Massachusetts. They soon made their way to Council Bluffs, partly by rail, partly by wagon, but did not remain long in that city. They continued their journey westward and located at Fontanelle, Nebraska, where Mr. Derry took up a homestead, upon which the family resided for about eight years. He then followed harness making at Fontanelle until the spring of 1880, when he removed to Lamoni. He built up a good business as a harness maker and leather manufacturer and owned the building in which his shop was located, also a good residence and sixty acres of fine land in Ringgold county. For about seventy years he worked more or less at his trade and he had an enviable reputation for doing excellent and conscientious work. He was an active member of the Reorganized



Church of Latter Day Saints, and held the rank of high priest. His wife also belonged to that denomination. He was a democrat in politics and for several terms served on the city council of Lamoni. He was married in 1846 to Miss Louisa Wheldal, a native of Derby, Derbyshire, England, whose birth occurred in 1822. He died February 26, 1911, and she passed away in 1888 or 1889. They became the parents of seven children, two of whom died in infancy. Those who grew to maturity besides our subject are: Ada L., the deceased wife of William A. France, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work; Charles H., a farmer and stock-raiser residing in Holt county, Nebraska; M. W., a farmer of Butte, Nebraska; and Arthur E., who is farming near Elgin, that state.

George H. Derry has resided in Lamoni since 1880. He received a high-school education and when seventeen years of age went into his father's harness shop, subsequently becoming a partner in the firm of George Derry & Son. He continues to deal in harness and saddlery and in 1911 added a garage. He was at first a partner in the business which is known as the Lamoni Auto Company but subsequently became sole owner of the business, although he retains the original firm name. In 1912 he erected the large building on the east side of Linden street in which his harness shop and garage is situated, and he has a large trade in both lines, employing several assistants. He also engages to some extent in the livery business and has the agency for the Chalmers and Reo cars. He is himself an expert mechanic and built a four-cylinder car which is still in good condition after having been run for several years. He also built the omnibus which operates between Togo and Lamoni. In addition to the various interests already mentioned he is treasurer of the local telephone company and his duties in that connection are promptly and accurately discharged.

Mr. Derry married Miss Charlotte Anderson, a daughter of the late Bishop William Anderson, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Mrs. Anderson resides with our subject. Mrs. Derry was born in St. Louis but for many years has resided in Decatur county and is a graduate of the Lamoni schools. By her marriage she has become the mother of two sons and two daughters, namely: Ada Louise, whose birth occurred in June, 1896; Ruth Charlotte, seventeen years of age, who graduated in 1915 from the Lamoni high school; and Arthur Wallace, fourteen years old, and Ralph, twelve years of age, both of whom are in school.

Mr. Derry is a democrat and has served with credit to himself in various local offices. Fraternally he belongs to the Independent



Order of Odd Fellows, and he is also connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints and cooperate in the work of that demonination. Mr. Derry has won a place among the progressive and energetic business men of Lamoni and receives a good annual income from his varied activities.

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### W. W. PITKIN.

W. W. Pitkin has met with marked success as a farmer and stockman and now owns and operates four hundred and twenty acres of land in Fayette township, Decatur county, and in Ringgold county. He has resided in this county since the spring of 1902, coming here from Estherville, Emmet county. His birth occurred in Fayette county in 1856 and he is a son of W. N. and Mary (Trussell) Pitkin, who removed from Ohio to Indiana, whence about 1850 they emigrated to Fayette county, this state, as the father had visited Iowa in the later '40s and had been much pleased with the opportunities offered agriculturists here. When our subject was about seven years of age removal was made to Jasper county, where the family remained for two years, after which they went to Linn county, Iowa, where both parents were living at the time of their deaths. The father passed away when eighty-five years old but the mother was only sixty-three years of age when she died. He was a republican in his political belief and she was a member of the Church of Latter Day Saints, having been baptized therein in Linn county in the later '80s. To their union were born six children, of whom one daughter has passed away. The others besides our subject are: Grant, living in Anamosa, Iowa; James, who is farming near Viola, this state; Mrs. Laura Hess, a widow, who is living at Armstrong, Emmet county; and Mrs. Louisa Garretson, of Hartley, South Dakota.

W. W. Pitkin has spent his entire life in this state and is indebted to the public-school system for his education. Although he had practically no capital when he began his independent business career he possessed the qualities of energy and sound judgment and these have enabled him to win financial independence. He now owns four hundred and twenty acres of fine land situated on sections 7 and 18, Fayette township, Decatur county, and in Ringgold county and he derives a good annual income from his activity as a farmer and stock-raiser.

On the 18th of December, 1879, Mr. Pitkin was married to Miss Sadie Crear, who was born in Ohio and removed to Linn county in childhood. She and Mr. Pitkin were schoolmates and during the many years that they have known each other and have worked together their mutual affection and respect have grown steadily. To them have been born five children: Pearl, the wife of J. F. Jones, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume; Jessie, who married A. J. Banta, of Houston, Texas; Lauren H., who is assisting his father with the farm work; Arthur F., at home; and Cleora, who graduated from the local high school with the class of 1915.

Mr. Pitkin was for many years a republican but now votes the democratic ticket. He and his family belong to the local society of the Church of Latter Day Saints and take an active part in the work of that organization. He is respected for his ability and integrity and there are many who hold him in warm personal regard.

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### ANDREW A. McWILLIAMS.

Andrew A. McWilliams has made many improvements upon his farm on sections 21 and 22, Hamilton township, and is always seeking to make his work as a farmer more efficient. His birth occurred in Knox county, Illinois, on the 2d of February, 1867, and he is a son of John and Harriet (Barbero) McWilliams, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

Andrew A. McWilliams grew to manhood in this county and farmed in partnership with his father until 1902, when his marriage occurred and he began his independent business career. He had previously purchased land and following his marriage he took up his residence upon his farm. He has since purchased the homestead and also other land and his holdings comprise three hundred and twenty acres on sections 21 and 22, Hamilton township, the buildings being on section 21. He has spared no time or expense in equipping his farm with all of the twentieth century improvements and in the work of the fields uses the latest machinery. A great deal of his attention, however, is given to raising thoroughbred Hereford cattle and Poland China hogs and he finds that branch of his business unusually profitable.

On the 3d of November, 1902, Mr. McWilliams married Miss Emma Turpen, a daughter of William B. and Isabel (Keown) Turpen, natives of Hamilton township, this county, where the father

is engaged in agricultural pursuits. Mr. and Mrs. McWilliams have had four children, namely, Veta, Lieuceil, Marion and an infant, deceased.

Mr. McWilliams is a democrat and has served as township trustee for two years, as assessor for eight years and as clerk for four years, his repeated election to public office proving the acceptability of his services as an official. Fraternally he belongs to the Masonic order and his religious faith is that of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints. Throughout his career he has depended upon enterprise, foresight and the careful management of his affairs to enable him to attain prosperity and as a result of his course he has not only won a gratifying measure of financial success but has also gained the complete confidence and sincere respect of all who know him.

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### CHARLES R. PIERCY.

Charles R. Piercy has resided in Bloomington township since 1878 and owns a valuable farm of four hundred and thirty-seven acres on sections 9 and 10. He was born in this county on the 1st of December, 1870, a son of James W. and Amelia Ann (Barnard) Piercy. The paternal grandparents were reared and married in Kentucky, whence they removed to Illinois in an early day in the history of that state. In 1856 they came to Decatur county, Iowa, and the grandfather, Nathan Piercy, entered land near Lamoni in both New Buda and Fayette townships. He subsequently traded that farm which is now known as the old Creveling place and is owned by Clem Creveling, and resided during his last years in the vicinity of Leon.

James W. Piercy settled in Bloomington township, this county, following his marriage and was living there at the time of the Civil war. He enlisted in the Thirty-ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry and after his term of service had expired veteranized, being at the front in all for about four years. At the close of hostilities he returned to Decatur county, but subsequently removed to Kansas, where he remained for about a year. The greater part of his life, however, was spent in this county. For five years, from 1873 to 1878, he engaged in the monument business and then again took up his residence in Bloomington township, residing near Tuskeega, where his death occurred. He was very successful as a farmer and also engaged in stock-raising to a considerable extent. His wife was born in Putnam county, Indiana, July 9, 1842, and in 1858 she accompanied her mother to Burrell

township, Decatur county, Iowa. Her father was killed in the Indian wars in Indiana and her mother subsequently married a Mr. Preston, a resident of Indiana, who died before her removal to this state. She passed away at the home of her son-in-law, James W. Piercy, in Bloomington township about 1886 at an advanced age. A son, who was in the army, died in the west many years ago. Her religious faith was that of the Missionary Baptist church. Mrs. Amelia Ann Piercy is still living and resides with her youngest child, a daughter, who lives at Armena, Kansas. James W. Piercy passed away in the faith of the Missionary Baptist church, to which Mrs. Piercy also belongs. To their union were born ten children, six of whom are still living, three having died when small and a daughter having passed away at the age of eighteen. Those living are: Mrs. Amelia Frances Sidders, of Fullerton, Nebraska; M. W., who also resides in that town; Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Auxier, a resident of Idaho; Charles R.; Mrs. Carrie Eva Ayers, of Holstein, Nebraska; and Mrs. Laura Etta Bevins, of Armena, Kansas.

Charles R. Piercy was reared in this county and attended the public schools in the acquirement of his education. He was early trained to agricultural pursuits and since reaching mature years has devoted his entire attention to the work of the farm. Since 1878 he has resided in Bloomington township and, although he had no capital when he began his independent career, his resources have since constantly increased and he now owns four hundred and thirty-seven acres of excellent land on sections 9 and 10. For twenty-one seasons he has operated a threshing machine and is still engaged in that business. He has succeeded in every enterprise that he has undertaken because he is energetic, determined and systematic, and prosperity is his just reward.

In 1893 occurred the marriage of Mr. Piercy and Miss Luella Ashburn, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Ashburn, who are still living at Lamoni. Mrs. Piercy was born and reared in Bloomington township, where her father owns a large farm. Mr. and Mrs. Piercy have become the parents of five children, of whom one daughter died when two years old. Those who survive are: Mrs. Ruth A. Bentling, who resides near Davis City, Iowa; James M., at home; Mrs. Golden Hair McGheuy, who resides near Lamoni; and Inez, at home.

Mr. Piercy is a democrat and has taken quite a prominent part in local public affairs. For four years he was township clerk and he was twice his party's candidate for county sheriff. Although in each case his opponent was a very popular man, he ran ahead of his ticket about six hundred votes. He is well known in local fraternal



circles, as he holds membership in the Knights of Pythias and Odd Fellows lodges at Lamoni. Both he and his wife belong to the Baptist church at Tuskeega and the work of that organization profits by their cooperation and material support. His sterling qualities of character and his business ability have gained him the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens and there are many who hold him in warm regard.

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### JACOB CRUM.

Jacob Crum, who owns an excellent farm of two hundred and eighty acres on sections 16 and 21, Morgan township, is a native of Columbiana county, Ohio, born in January, 1837. His parents, John and Polly (Lozier) Crum, were both natives of Pennsylvania but early became residents of Ohio, where the father operated a grist mill. He also owned land but left the farm work to his sons. He passed away in 1864 and was survived for eight years by his wife.

Jacob Crum grew to manhood in Ohio and there received his education. He remained with his parents until he enlisted in the Union army in 1862. He was a member of Company C, One Hundred and Fourth Ohio Infantry, and served with that command until the close of the war. He then returned home and farmed in the Buckeye state until 1869, when he came to Decatur county, Iowa. He rented land in Morgan township for a year but in the fall of 1870 purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section 21 which he at once began preparing for cultivation. As it was nearly all in timber it was necessary to clear it before crops could be put in. At length he had his first purchase all under cultivation and as his resources increased he bought additional land and now owns two hundred and eighty acres on sections 16 and 21, Morgan township, all of which is well improved. He has been successful as a farmer and has accumulated a competence. He is now living largely retired and his son, Burr E., operates the homestead.

Mr. Crum was married on the 18th of September, 1866, to Miss Roxana Engle, who passed away in her thirty-fourth year, on the 31st of August, 1876. She was the mother of two children: John Gilson, who died May 7, 1876; and Mary E., the wife of Boyd Eck, a resident of Lineville. On the 21st of June, 1877, Mr. Crum was again married, Mrs. Elizabeth Ann (Jewett) Jackson becoming his wife. She was born in Morgan township April 22, 1854, and is a



daughter of George and Lydia C. (Logan) Jewett, natives respectively of Ohio and Kentucky. Her maternal grandparents came to Decatur county in the early days of its history and located on section 12, Morgan township, where her grandfather farmed until called by death. Her father also owned land in Morgan township and in addition to his agricultural work practiced as a physician. During the Civil war he removed to Lineville and there concentrated his energies upon his professional work. Subsequently he removed to various places, finally locating at Princeton, Missouri, where he died in the spring of 1898. His widow passed away July 5, 1912. Mrs. Crum has been twice married. She became the wife of Andrew Jackson on the 22d of January, 1874, and his death occurred on the 11th of September of the same year. They had one son, Andrew, who was born May 19, 1875, and who is farming in Woodland township, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Crum have two children. Nora A., who was born October 3, 1879, is the wife of James Flynn, a farmer of Woodland township. Burr E. was born on the 24th of November, 1886, and attended the common schools and the high school of Lineville, from which he was graduated in 1906. He then entered Drake University at Des Moines and took a commercial course there. For one term he taught school but with the exception of that time has engaged in operating his father's place since completing his education. He is energetic and progressive and is meeting with gratifying success as an agriculturist. He is at present serving as township clerk.

Mr. Crum of this review is a republican and has held the offices of township clerk and township trustee, discharging his duties in those connections with circumspection and ability. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Methodist church and throughout his life he has conformed his conduct to high moral standards. He is well known throughout the county and the circle of his friends almost coincides with the circle of his acquaintances.

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### F. B. BLAIR.

F. B. Blair, the efficient manager of the Lamoni electric light plant, which furnishes light and power for Lamoni, Davis City and Kellerton, was born in Illinois in 1868, a son of the late W. W. Blair, who is mentioned at greater length elsewhere in this volume. Our subject was reared in his native state and there attended the public schools. Since beginning his independent career he has followed a

number of occupations, as he was with the Lamoni State Bank for five years, for four years was a traveling salesman and for four years devoted his time to work in California as a missionary of the Latter Day Saints church, having been ordained to the ministry in 1897. In 1902 he assumed charge of the Herald Publishing House and was manager thereof until 1909, when he became manager of the Lamoni electric light plant, which was established by the former company. The plant is thoroughly modern and well equipped and supplies light and power for Lamoni, Davis City and Kellerton. It furnishes power to operate the ice plant at Lamoni and also to run the machinery in a number of manufacturing plants. The office of the company is on Linden street and is also used as a salesroom, a full line of electrical supplies and sundries being kept. The plant employs about a dozen people and is one of the leading industrial concerns of Lamoni. The building in which it is housed is owned by the company.

Mr. Blair was married in Little Sioux, Iowa, to Miss Bess Cobb, a native of western Iowa, where her parents settled in pioneer times. To Mr. and Mrs. Blair have been born two sons: Wayne, who is now attending the State College at Ames; and Rolland, who is in school.

Mr. Blair has supported the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and he is progressive in his tendencies, believing in advancement in politics as well as along other lines. He has taken an active part in local political affairs but has never accepted office. He has traveled extensively in the interests of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints at various times and for several years was officially connected with Graceland College. For two years he was one of three men who composed the presidency of the Lamoni stake. His wife also belongs to the church and takes an active interest in its work. Mr. Blair is characterized by energy, resoluteness of purpose and sound judgment and it is but natural that he should succeed admirably as manager of the Lamoni Electric Light Company. He is not only recognized as an excellent business man but the worth of his character is also generally acknowledged.

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### WILLIAM HUGH HAZLET.

William Hugh Hazlet, of Eden township, is one of the best known breeders of Red Polled cattle in the middle west and has shipped thoroughbred cattle to twelve states of the Union. He also carries on general farming and the two branches of his business yield him a

handsome yearly income. A native of Iroquois county, Illinois, he was born on the 2d of April, 1862, of the marriage of Hugh D. and Margaret A. (Graham) Hazlet. Further mention of his parents is given elsewhere in this work.

William H. Hazlet attended school in his native state until 1876, when he accompanied his parents to Decatur county, Iowa. He continued his education in the school of district No. 1, Eden township, this county, and he remained under the parental roof and gave his father the benefit of his labor until he was nineteen years of age. He then began farming for himself upon the home place and following his marriage, which occurred when he was twenty-one years old, erected a residence upon the homestead. In addition to farming that place he operated a farm of two hundred acres, which he rented from John Albaugh and which is situated a half mile south of the homestead. Seven years later Mr. Hazlet purchased the one hundred and twenty acre farm where John Frost now resides, and planted the large orchard on the place and the fine evergreen windbrake on three sides of the orchard. After two years he sold that property and removed to Center township, where he rented two hundred and eighty acres owned by John W. Gardner. In 1901 he purchased his present home farm of one hundred and seventy-five acres on section 12, Eden township, and two years later took up his residence thereon. He subsequently added an eighty acre tract to the property. He not only operates his two hundred and fifty-five acres but also rents from one hundred to one hundred and fifty acres additional land, most of which is devoted to pasture. His herd of Red Polled cattle is known throughout the cattle world of the middle west and he has shipped cattle for breeding purposes to twelve states of the Union. He also buys stockers from the Missouri river markets which he feeds and sells. He likewise ships several carloads of hogs annually.

Mr. Hazlet was married in 1883 to Miss Mary E. McCutcheon, who was born October 18, 1863, and is a daughter of Josiah and Elizabeth (Nelson) McCutcheon, pioneer settlers of this county. Her parents were natives respectively of Floyd county, Indiana, and of Madison county, that state, and the father was born on the 27th of October, 1833, while the mother's birth occurred on the 18th of February, 1842. They were married March 17, 1859, in Cambria, Wayne county, Iowa, where they remained until 1865. In that year they emigrated with their family to this county and located two miles south of the county farm in Eden township. There the father purchased land, to the cultivation of which he devoted his time and attention.

He passed away in that township April 3, 1891. His wife subsequently removed to Leon and there her demise occurred September 13, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Hazlet have nine children. Minnie, born June 2, 1884, is at home and is a dressmaker by profession. Ruey, born June 25, 1886, was married June 22, 1910, to Otto Wiesley, principal of the schools of Melbourne, Iowa, and they have two children, Keith and Vera. Ruby, born March 21, 1888, was married on the 17th of June, 1909, to R. L. Chastain, of Eden township, and they have one child, Ware. Mary, whose birth occurred August 12, 1890, is teaching in Center township. Fannie, born June 18, 1893, who was also a teacher in that township for several terms, was married June 2, 1915, to George Starks, of Manchester, Oklahoma. Their home is at Waldron, Kansas. William James, who was born November 5, 1895, is at home and is assisting his father with the farm work. Ida, who was born September 22, 1898, is a member of the class of 1916 of the Leon high school. Raymond L., born November 25, 1901, is attending district school. Florence Venice, the youngest of the family, was born January 12, 1908, and is also attending the district school.

Mr. Hazlet was a democrat for many years but now votes for the man regardless of his party allegiance. For several terms he served as clerk of the Eden township school board. He and his family all belong to the Church of Christ of Eden township, in the erection of whose house of worship he assisted, hauling the lumber which was used in the structure. He takes a deep interest in the furtherance of the work of that organization and contributes generously to its support. He studies carefully the various problems that confront the farmer and stock-raiser and is at all times ready to profit by the results of experimentation in those fields. He has gained more than usual success in his chosen occupation, has won an enviable reputation as a breeder of thoroughbred cattle and has accumulated more than a competence. He is not only esteemed for his business ability but is also highly respected because of his sterling integrity.

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### GEORGE V. BROWN.

George V. Brown is a prosperous farmer and stockman, giving especial attention to breeding dairy cattle, and his farm on section 35, Bloomington township, is a well improved and valuable property. He was born in Westchester county, New York, in April, 1849, a





From left to right, upper row: LaJone E. Brown; Loren F. Truman; LeRoy H. Truman; Ralph H. Brown; Jannita Brown; Nina, wife of Ralph H. Brown; Arnetta, wife of Benjamin F. Brown; Hester George; Leta George; David A. Truman; Velvin Brown.

From left to right, lower row: Jesse V. George; Flava, wife of Loren F. Truman; Mary, wife of LeRoy H. Truman; George V. Brown; Veryl P. George; Victoria, wife of George V. Brown; Harold Brown; Benjamin F. Brown; Edna Brown; Lorena A. Brown.





son of Peter J. and Esta (Sloat) Brown, representatives of old New York families. The Brown family has been traced back to ancestors who emigrated to this country from England. Peter J. Brown removed to Utah with his family in 1869, but the following spring went to Douglas county, Nebraska, where he resided until his demise, which occurred about 1891, when he was seventy-two years of age. He followed the occupation of a farmer and was quite successful in his work. He belonged to the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints and for many years was an elder, doing much to further the advancement of the organization. His wife died in 1907 when past eighty-one years of age in the faith of the same church. To their union were born ten children, who grew to maturity, seven sons and three daughters, of whom four sons and two daughters are living. Our subject is the only one residing in Iowa and one sister makes her home in New York, but the others live in Nebraska.

George V. Brown was reared in New York state and there attended the common schools in the acquirement of an education. He accompanied his parents westward and removed with them from Utah to Nebraska, where he resided until February, 1895, when he located in Bloomington township, Decatur county, Iowa, where he owns a quarter section of fine land. He follows general farming and stock-raising and has specialized in the breeding of high grade Hereford and Jersey cattle. He has made a number of improvements upon the farm, which was quite well developed when it came into his possession, and his residence is attractive and commodious. He derives a good income from his business and is one of the progressive and energetic agriculturists and stock-breeders in his township.

Mr. Brown was married in New Jersey to Miss Fannie Taylor, an English lady, who died in 1892, leaving two sons and a daughter, namely: Hester, now Mrs. George, of Pasco, Washington; Ralph H., of Wray, Colorado; and Benjamin F., a farmer of Bloomington township. In 1896 Mr. Brown was again married, Mrs. Victoria Truman, nee Buckingham, becoming his wife. She was born in Utah of the marriage of John and Jane (Lovich) Buckingham, natives of Norfolk and Suffolk, England, respectively. They were married in Utah and after residing there for some time removed to Idaho, where they lived for eighteen months. Subsequently they went to eastern Oregon and made their home there for eleven years, after which they took up their residence in Lamoni, Iowa. The father was a miller by trade and was quite successful. He passed away in Lamoni in January, 1882, and his widow survived him until May, 1884. Their religious faith was that of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day

Saints. To them were born four daughters, the sisters of Mrs. Brown being: Mrs. R. T. Krucker, of Lamoni; Sarah Jane, who resides with Mrs. Krucker; and Mrs. Anna Monroe, who died about nineteen years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have become parents of three children, Lorena, Lajune and Harold, all at home. By her previous marriage Mrs. Brown had three children, Leroy, Loren and Alfred.

Mr. Brown is a republican and has consistently supported that party since age conferred upon him the suffrage. He is a loyal member of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints at Lamoni and strives to practice the teachings of Christianity. In looking after his individual interests as a farmer and stock-raiser he has also incidentally contributed to the development of this county along those lines, and he is rightly held in respect and esteem.

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### BISHOP WILLIAM ANDERSON.

Bishop William Anderson, who was bishop of the Lamoni stake of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints, proved a worthy leader and under his direction the church grew in spiritual power and prospered materially. He was also identified with a number of business interests of Lamoni and its vicinity and carried to successful completion all enterprises which he undertook. He was born on the 1st of February, 1840, at Glasgow, Scotland, a son of William and Jeannette Anderson, who, with their family, on the 18th of April, 1855, sailed for the United States, landing in New York on the 22d of May. They lived for a short time in Atchison, Kansas, but on the 16th of August, 1855, started for Utah, traveling with ox teams. They arrived in Salt Lake City on the 24th of October, that year. On the 16th of August, 1856, after residing in Salt Lake City something less than a year, they returned to Atchison, Kansas, and as the western country was then unsettled, during part of the journey they were escorted by cavalry for protection. On the 9th of November, 1856, they removed to St. Louis, where the father passed away the year following.

In 1859 Bishop Anderson left St. Louis and for four years worked on the plains as a freighter and teamster. In 1863 he returned to St. Louis, where he was married, and the following year he was baptized as a member of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints. Not long afterward he was ordained as a teacher in the church and some time later was made a priest, while in 1867 he became

an elder. He was active in organizing the church at St. Louis and presided over the St. Louis branch until 1883, when he removed to Pleasanton, Iowa, where he helped to build up the church, of which he was in charge for a number of years. In 1889 he removed to Lamoni and in 1890 was ordained high priest and set apart as one of the high council. He was president of the Decatur district for several years in the early '90s and proved so able a church administrator that in 1900 he was made bishop by order of the general conference and was soon afterward chosen bishop of the Decatur district. Upon the organization of the Lamoni stake he became bishop thereof and remained in that office until his death.

Bishop Anderson lived for years on a farm near Pleasanton and proved very successful in his work as an agriculturist. He was one of the founders of the State Savings Bank of Lamoni, of which he was president for many years, and also established the Lamoni Hardware Company, now conducted by his son, E. K. Anderson. He was highly respected in business circles for his sound judgment, clear insight into conditions and his unquestionable integrity and absolute honesty.

Bishop Anderson was married on the 19th of August, 1863, in St. Louis to Miss Christobella Knight, and they became the parents of four children. Jessie became the wife of W. W. Reese and both have passed away. E. K. is proprietor of the Lamoni Hardware Company, which is one of the leading enterprises of that character in Decatur county. Charlotte married G. H. Derry, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Christobelle became the wife of Richard J. Lambert, of Lamoni, who was born in Woodbine, Harrison county, Iowa, on the 20th of September, 1874, a son of Joseph R. and Anna E. (Chambers) Lambert, who have resided in Lamoni since 1882. They also have a daughter, Mrs. A. H. Mills, of Independence, Missouri. Richard J. Lambert grew to manhood in Lamoni and in 1901 was ordained a minister of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints and since 1903 has been the representative of the Lamoni stake in the state bishopric. He has an office in the Herald building and is one of three men who are in charge of the financial affairs of this stake. For eleven years he has been a member of the school board and takes an active interest in everything relating to the community development along lines of moral and intellectual advancement. To Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Lambert have been born three children: Jean M., who was born in 1897 and who will graduate from the local high school in 1916; Harold A., whose birth occurred in 1900 and who is a high-school student; and Bruce E., born in 1904,

who is attending grammar school. Mr. Lambert is a democrat in his political affiliation. His wife is one of the three members of the committee of control of the church homes for the aged, which are known as the Saints and Liberty Homes.

Bishop Anderson gave his political allegiance to the republican party but was never an office seeker, as his time was fully taken up by his church duties and by his business affairs. He labored earnestly and untiringly for the advancement and growth of the church in Lamoni stake and was not only highly esteemed by the members of the Church of Latter Day Saints, but was also sincerely respected by those of other faith. His demise, which occurred on the 5th of March, 1911, at Lamoni, was a great loss to his church and also to the community where he had resided for many years, but the influence of his life and work is still felt.

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### CURTIS A. BOYD.

Curtis A. Boyd, one of the most progressive and most successful farmers of Grand River township, owns altogether seven hundred and sixty acres of excellent land. He was born in Center township, this county, on the 7th of September, 1869, and is a son of John and Elizabeth Boyd, an account of whose lives appears elsewhere in this work.

Our subject was reared upon the homestead and acquired his education in the district schools. Much of his time during his boyhood and youth was devoted to assisting with the work of the farm and he remained at home until 1893. In that year he received eighty acres from his parents, the same being located on section 10, Grand River township, and he began his independent business career. He prospered from the beginning and has gradually added to his holdings until he now owns seven hundred and sixty acres of land, from which he derives a handsome income. He uses the latest improved machinery in his work and is always ready to profit by the discoveries of research workers in the field of agriculture.

On the 3d of September, 1893, Mr. Boyd married Miss Susie Fear, a daughter of Robert and Mary Fear. To Mr. and Mrs. Boyd have been born three children, namely; Norris, whose birth occurred on the 26th of October, 1898, and who died April 23, 1911; Merle, born June 20, 1902; and Mary, born September 27, 1908.



The republican party finds in Mr. Boyd a stalwart supporter as he believes firmly in the wisdom of its policies. His wife belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and is greatly interested in the various branches of church work. Both Mr. and Mrs. Boyd are well and favorably known throughout the county and those who have been most intimately associated with them esteem them most highly. In gaining the large measure of success which Mr. Boyd has won he has also contributed to the development of his county along agricultural lines and is justly regarded as one of the most influential farmers of his locality.

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### FRED B. BOWMAN.

Fred B. Bowman, numbered among the up-to-date and progressive agriculturists of Decatur county, is the owner of an excellent farm comprising one hundred and fifty-five acres in Garden Grove township which he has operated continuously for more than two decades. His birth occurred in Dixon, Illinois, on the 11th of June, 1870, his parents being John and Emily (Brimmer) Bowman, the former born near Quebec, Canada, and the latter near Watertown, New York. John Bowman became identified with agricultural pursuits in early life and enlisted for service in the Union army as a youth of seventeen years, joining the Eighth New York Cavalry as a private and remaining with that command until the cessation of hostilities between the north and the south. He received a slight wound in the final engagement of the war at or near Appomattox Courthouse but did not stay in the hospital and, remaining in the ranks, witnessed the surrender of General Lee to General Grant. When the war was over he made his way to Watertown, New York, where for a few years he operated a farm, and subsequently he spent a year at farm labor near Dixon, Illinois. He next went to Missouri, making his home within thirty miles of St. Joseph for three years, on the expiration of which period he removed to Wayne county, Iowa, where he has resided continuously since, devoting his attention to general agricultural pursuits. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic and takes a deep interest in the activities of the local post. To him and his wife were born two children: Fred B., of this review; and Alice, who is a stenographer residing in Chicago. The mother of these children died in 1897, and the father subsequently married Miss Emma Henry, by whom he has two children, Theodore and Waltham.

Fred B. Bowman acquired his early education in the public schools of Wayne county, Iowa, later attended college at Humeston, Iowa, and pursued a course of study in the Capital City Commercial College of Des Moines. He then returned to the home place in Wayne county, where he remained until 1894, when he came to Decatur county, purchasing a farm of one hundred and fifty-five acres in Garden Grove township, which he has operated continuously since and has brought to a high state of cultivation and improvement. He has erected thereon a substantial residence and good barns and the property is thrifty and attractive in appearance, giving evidence of the able supervision as well as prosperity of its owner. Mr. Bowman raises the cereals common to his locality and also raises horses, cattle and hogs, both branches of his business returning to him a gratifying annual income. Fruit trees, wells and windmills add much to the attractiveness of the place and also enhance its value.

On the 29th of December, 1902, Mr. Bowman was united in marriage to Miss Eva Aton, a daughter of Samuel and Lucinda Aton, of Decatur county, Iowa. To them have been born five children, namely: Florie and Freda, twins; George; Gladys; and Evaline L. Mrs. Bowman is a graduate of the Garden Grove high school and followed the profession of teaching for one year with excellent success prior to her marriage. She is a devoted and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church and, like her husband, has a host of warm friends in the community.

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### WILLIAM ARTHUR GRENAWALT.

William Arthur Grenawalt owns and conducts an excellent and well patronized clothing and men's furnishings store at Lamoni and is recognized as a representative business man. He also has other financial interests, but devotes the greater part of his time to his store. His birth occurred in Harrison county, March 30, 1873, and he is a son of John L. and Fannie (Robinson) Grenawalt. The father was very successful as an agriculturist and, although he began his career without capital, he became in time the owner of two sections of land. He passed away in 1892 at the comparatively early age of forty-two years. His political allegiance was given to the republican party. His wife, who was a member of the Latter Day Saints church, died in 1904 when more than fifty years old. To them were born eight children, namely: Mrs. Nellie Traxler, of Lamoni; William Arthur; G. R., of Lamoni; J. R., who is in business with our

subject; Charles, who died in infancy; J. L., who is farming in Fayette township, this county; Mrs. Nina M. Smith, of Independence, Missouri; and Ora A., who is employed in his brother's store.

William Arthur Grenawalt was reared upon the home farm and after beginning his independent career engaged in agricultural pursuits on his own account for two years, but in 1893 removed to Lamoni, where he has since resided. He at once established a clothing and men's furnishings store and so prospered that in 1895 he was enabled to erect the building on Main street in which his store is still located. He employs two assistants and his business has shown a steady growth, which indicates that his goods are of high quality, his prices reasonable and his dealings honorable. He also owns over five hundred acres of land in Harrison county, Missouri, part of which he operates as a stock farm and part of which he rents. He is likewise interested financially in the local telephone company.

Mr. Grenawalt married Miss Sarah E. Mull, who was born and reared in Harrison county, Missouri, and is a daughter of the late Wiley Mull. However, both her father and mother died when she was but a child and she grew to womanhood in the home of an uncle. Mr. and Mrs. Grenawalt have had two children: W. Donald, who died in infancy; and Ruth L., who is at home.

Mr. Grenawalt is a republican and for ten years was a member of the city council. He is still serving on the school board, having been reelected in 1914. Fraternally he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and his wife is affiliated with the Rebekahs. Both hold membership in the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints. His energy and good management have resulted in the up-building of a business which returns to him a good profit annually and which is also a factor in the commercial expansion of Lamoni.

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### E. W. BRIGGS.

E. W. Briggs, who is operating a farm of two hundred and eighty acres on section 3, Garden Grove township, is meeting with gratifying success as a stock-raiser. He was born in Bristol county, Massachusetts, in June, 1846, a son of Andrew and Betsy (Peck) Briggs. The father died in the Bay state when our subject was but an infant and there the mother subsequently married J. A. Pitts. In 1852 they located in Illinois on what is now the present site of McLean, McLean county, that state, where both lived until called to their last

rest. They left two sons, one a resident of Bloomington, Illinois, and the other of California.

E. W. Briggs accompanied his mother and stepfather to Illinois when six years of age and continued to reside in the Prairie state until the spring of 1874, when he removed to Decatur county, Iowa, and bought one hundred and twenty acres of land. For a number of years he was associated with his brother, William T. Briggs, who, however, passed away in April, 1900. Mr. Briggs of this review has added to the original one hundred and twenty acres and now owns two hundred and eighty acres of fine land which is well improved. He erected a modern residence and barns and outbuildings and has taken much pride in developing his farm. He raises a large number of cattle, horses and hogs and as his stock is of a good grade and he watches the markets carefully he derives a good profit from his business.

Mr. Briggs is a democrat but has never had the time nor the desire to take an active part in politics. Fraternally he is a member of Garden Grove Lodge, No. 170, A. F. & A. M., and he attends the Presbyterian church of Le Roy, associations which indicate the rules which govern his conduct. He helped to build the new church edifice and contributes to the support of the work of the church. He has not only won a gratifying measure of financial success but has also gained the honor and esteem of all who have come in contact with him as his integrity and probity are unquestioned.

William T. Briggs, whose death occurred in 1900, was also a member of the Masonic fraternity and was highly respected in his community. His widow, who was in her maidenhood Miss Fannie Teale, survives and is a resident of McLean county, Illinois, in which county their two children are also living. Mabel is now Mrs. Abe Rhode and has a son and daughter. Andrew is engaged in agricultural pursuits. He and his mother are members of the Methodist church.

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### EMORY THOMPSON.

Emory Thompson, who is a well known farmer and stockman of New Buda township, was born May 2, 1860, in Wapello county, Iowa, a son of Francis and Margaret (Ewing) Thompson. The father, who was born near Danville, Indiana, of Irish and Yankee



ancestry, came to Iowa in the early '40s and homesteaded land in Wapello county. At the time of the Civil war he put aside all personal considerations and enlisted in Company E, Twenty-second Iowa Volunteer Infantry. At the close of hostilities he returned to his farm in Wapello county, where he resided until 1879, when he came to New Buda township, Decatur county, buying sixty acres of land. Five years later he added forty acres to his holdings and he devoted his time to the cultivation of his land until his demise, which occurred in 1888. His wife was also born near Danville, Indiana, and came of Yankee stock. Their marriage occurred at Danville. She passed away in 1902 in Davis City, to which place she removed following the demise of her husband.

Emory Thompson received a good education, attending the public schools of Wapello county. On putting aside his textbooks he concentrated his energies upon helping his father with the work of the farm and following the demise of the latter took charge of the home place, which he has since operated. He owns one hundred acres of excellent land and in addition to raising the usual crops breeds high grade stock and feeds a large number of cattle and hogs annually which he sells to shippers.

On the 14th of November, 1886, Mr. Thompson married Miss Abigail Robbins, a daughter of John Porter and Rachel (Davis) Robbins. Her father was born in Athens county, Ohio, and came of Yankee ancestry. In 1845 he removed to Decatur county, Iowa, and cast in his lot with the early settlers of New Buda township, where he entered land. His demise occurred at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Sidney Morris, at Bethany, Missouri, on the 7th of December, 1913, when he had reached the advanced age of seventy-nine years, two months and nineteen days, his natal day being September 18, 1834. His wife, who was born in Ohio, became a resident of Missouri in her girlhood and there their marriage was solemnized in 1860. She passed away in 1890 near Akron, Missouri. Mrs. Thompson is one of eleven children and has become the mother of six children, as follows: Elva, who was born August 26, 1887, died when nine months old. Floyd, who was born May 14, 1889, is assisting his father with the farm work. He is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Davis City. Myrl, who was born October 6, 1892, is the wife of Roy Mitchell, a farmer living near Fairfax, Missouri. Earl, a twin of Myrl, died when five months old. Fay, whose birth occurred February 13, 1898, will graduate from the Davis City high school with the class of 1916. Mary Dean, who was born April 30, 1905, died at the age of eight years.



Mr. Thompson is a democrat and for twenty-eight years has been a member of the school board of independent district No. 2, of New Buda township, and for a number of years was president of that body. He is characterized by industry and, as he plans his work well, he has met with a gratifying measure of success in his farming operations.

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### CHARLES FRANCE.

Charles France, the president of the Lamoni Telephone Company, is in active control of that concern and its success is due largely to his able management of its affairs. His birth occurred in Kewanee, Henry county, Illinois, December 29, 1865, and he is a brother of W. A. France, further mention of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

Charles France received his education in the public schools of Illinois, but in his youth accompanied the family to Decatur county and for about fifteen years resided upon the home farm in Fayette township. He was then for five years engaged in carrying mail to Togo but at the end of that time turned his attention to other pursuits and was for a while connected with a meat market and later was identified with the lumber business in connection with his brother W. A. Upon the discontinuance of that association he became interested in the telephone field and for a number of years has been president of the Lamoni Telephone Company, which has a large number of subscribers and the volume of whose business has shown a steady growth from the time of the organization of the company. Mr. France gives the greater part of his attention to the direction of its affairs and has proved a capable executive, one who does not lose sight of the larger problems of administration and who at the same time is able to keep a close watch on the details of the business. He owns the fine postoffice building, which he erected, is interested in land and has considerable real estate.

Mr. France married Miss Florence Woolfenden, a native of England, who emigrated to America when but fourteen years of age in company with her widowed mother. They located in Utah and there she met Mr. France. To their union have been born three children, Helene, Charles and Roy Kenneth, all attending school.

Mr. France is a democrat and for twelve years has been a member of the town board and during the past two years he has also served

as township trustee. Since attaining his majority he has manifested a lively interest in everything relating to the civic welfare and is recognized as a public-spirited citizen. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints and the various phases of the activity of the church profit by their cooperation and material aid. Mr. France rightly ranks among the leading business men of Lamoni and Decatur county and has used his excellent judgment and power of initiative for the benefit of the community as well as for his individual gain, the Lamoni Telephone Company under his direction giving excellent service at reasonable rates. His fine home in the western part of Lamoni has been lately remodeled and both he and his wife find pleasure in entertaining their friends there. In his early manhood he traveled extensively over the western part of the United States but he found no section that offered greater opportunities than Decatur county, and he has thoroughly identified his interests with those of his community.

The Lamoni Telephone Company, which was promoted by W. A. Hopkins, was incorporated in 1897. The line extends through Decatur and Ringgold counties, Iowa, and Harrison county, Missouri, and through its connections with the Bell Telephone Company gives its subscribers long distance as well as local service. The company employs about five girls, a number of linemen and two or three men who assist Mr. France in the office work. The present officers are: Charles France, president; W. A. Grenawalt, vice president; Dr. W. J. Mather, secretary; and G. H. Derry, treasurer. The above named gentlemen also constitute the board of directors.

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### GRANT MALLORY.

The Davis City News, which was established by Grant Mallory and which is still conducted by him, has gained a place among the wide-awake and reliable weekly newspapers of this section of Iowa. Mr. Mallory was born in Delaware county, Iowa, on the 12th of June, 1869, a son of Alvaador H. and Rebecca E. (Cuppett) Mallory, natives of New York and Pennsylvania respectively. The father, who was by occupation a farmer, removed to Delaware county in the early days of the history of this state and entered land from the government. He made three trips by ox team to California during the gold craze, but subsequently gave his attention to farming in Delaware county, Iowa, until 1880, when he sold his land there and

moved to South Dakota, where he purchased land. He also rented a considerable tract and one season had one thousand acres in wheat. Eventually he retired from active life and removed to Canton, South Dakota, where he resided until his demise in 1903. His widow died in 1909.

Grant Mallory was reared at Manchester, Iowa, and Canton, South Dakota, and after completing the course offered in the public schools attended Augustana College at Canton for one year. He remained with his parents until he was eighteen years of age and in his youth learned the printer's trade. Upon leaving home he went on the stage and was quite successful as an actor. He followed that profession until 1907, when he was married. In April, 1910, he removed to Davis City and founded the Davis City News, which he has since published. It now has a sworn circulation of five hundred and is patronized to a considerable extent by the local merchants, who recognize its value as an advertising medium. It has a good news service and its editorials are clearly and forcibly written. Mr. Mallory has equipped his plant with modern machinery and does job printing in addition to printing the Davis City News.

Mr. Mallory married Miss Bessie Carter, of Savanna, Illinois, who is a daughter of Isaac and Laura (Lee) Carter, natives respectively of Ohio and New York. Her father has been in the employ of the Wells Fargo Express Company for many years and is still residing in Savanna, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Mallory have a daughter, Rosamond, who is now in her third year.

Mr. Mallory is a republican and personally and through the medium of his paper does much in behalf of that party, although he places the best good of the community above party success. Externally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and since coming to Davis City he has made many warm friends, while all who know him hold him in sincere respect.

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### CHARLES F. FIERCE.

Charles F. Fierce, who is successfully engaged in farming and stock-raising in Long Creek township, is a native son of Decatur county, born on the 17th of July, 1868, on the Fierce homestead, of the marriage of William E. and Anna (West) Fierce, natives respectively of Indiana and of Ohio. The father became a resident of Decatur county when but a child and here grew to manhood. He

was reared to farming and on starting out on his independent career purchased land in Long Creek township, which he improved and operated until called by death. He enlisted from this county in the Union army and served at the front for a year. He passed away when fifty-two years of age on the 10th of July, 1895. His wife is still living at Van Wert at the age of sixty-four.

Charles F. Fierce attended the district schools in Long Creek township and assisted with the work of the farm during his boyhood and youth. When he was twenty years old he rented land and continued to cultivate land belonging to others until his father's demise. He then inherited forty acres and purchased an additional forty acres on section 24, his holdings now comprising eighty acres. In addition to cultivating his own land he and his brother E. W., a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work, farm the adjoining eighty acres owned by their mother. Mr. Fierce of this review remodeled his residence and erected a barn upon his farm, which is now one of the well improved places of his locality. He carries on general farming and also raises high grade stock. He finds the feeding of hogs for the market exceptionally profitable and sells many head annually to the shippers.

On the 10th of May, 1891, Mr. Fierce was married to Miss Margaret Barrackman, who was born on the 2d of September, 1871, at Van Wert. Her parents, John and Emma (Iams) Barrackman, were born respectively in Owen county, Indiana, in 1841 and in Holmes county, Ohio, May 31, 1842. The father was brought to Decatur county, Iowa, by his parents when he was still a lad and grew to manhood in Long Creek township. On reaching mature years he purchased eighty acres of land in Franklin township, upon which he lived until 1894, when he removed to Kingfisher county, Oklahoma, and took up a claim of one hundred and sixty acres, upon which he is still living. His wife was taken by her parents to Clarke county, Iowa, when she was eleven years of age and the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Barrackman occurred in that county on the 27th of January, 1863. She passed away in Kingfisher county, Oklahoma, on the 24th of March, 1914. To them were born ten children: Mrs. Ida Hill, of Custer, Oklahoma; Mrs. Dora Brown, of Kingfisher, Oklahoma; Mrs. Sarah Smith, of Des Moines, Iowa; Mrs. Laura Frans, of Thomas, Oklahoma; Mrs. Margaret Fierce, of Van Wert, Iowa; William H., of St. Joseph, Missouri; David H., of Kingfisher, Oklahoma; Charles, of Oklahoma City; Mrs. Mauna Frans, of Clinton, Oklahoma; and Mrs. Harriet Frans, of Kingfisher, Oklahoma. To Mr. and Mrs. Fierce have been born three children,



namely: Helene, whose birth occurred on the 10th of March, 1895, and who is now a student in the Des Moines College; Gerald, born November 26, 1896, who graduated from the Van Wert high school with the class of 1915 and is now helping his father with the work of the farm; and Lucille, born February 8, 1901, who is a student in the Van Wert high school.

Mr. Fierce is a republican in politics and is serving his third term as township trustee, while for six years he was director in school district No. 2, of Long Creek township. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, the Yeomen and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to the lodges of those organizations at Van Wert, and his wife is identified with the Rebekahs. He and his family all belong to the Methodist Episcopal church of Van Wert and are working members of that congregation. Throughout his entire life Mr. Fierce has resided in this county and the high esteem in which he is generally held is proof of his integrity and rectitude.

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### WILLIAM RUSSELL MANCHESTER.

William Russell Manchester, a well known and highly regarded farmer of New Buda township, was born in Holmes county, Ohio, on the 7th of March, 1856. His father, Isaac Manchester, was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, of English and Holland Dutch ancestry and grew to manhood in Ohio, where he was taken when two years of age. He was married in Holmes county, Ohio, to Miss Emily Ross, who is a native of that county and is descended from Scotch and English stock. In 1866 they came west and located southeast of Leon in Decatur county, Iowa, where the father farmed for three years. At the end of that time a removal was made to New Buda township, where they resided for two years, after which they again located near Leon. In 1871, however, they went back to Ohio, where they continued to reside until 1878. In that year they returned to Iowa and located west of Lineville, where they remained for two decades. The father died near Mineral Springs, Missouri, March 21, 1915, but the mother is still living and makes her home with her son Hiram, who resides near Davis City. Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Manchester were the parents of seven children, namely: William Russell; Simon C., a resident of Alaska; Hiram, of Leon; Lydia, now Mrs. Samuel Stuteville, of Morgan township; John; Wylie; and Paul A., of Mercer county, Missouri.



William Russell Manchester attended district school in Holmes county, Ohio, and in Decatur county, Iowa. In his early manhood he taught school in Holmes county, Ohio, in Decatur county, Iowa, in Missouri and in Colorado, following that profession for fifteen terms in all. When twenty-three years of age he worked on the construction of the railroad between Corydon and Centerville, Iowa. In 1884 he located two miles west of Lineville, Iowa, and after farming there for two years removed to the vicinity of Ravenna, Missouri, where he followed agricultural pursuits for two years. At the end of that time he removed to Baca county, Colorado, where he rented land for about seven years. He was then for two years in the Ozark mountains in Missouri, but in 1896 returned to this county and operated a rented farm until 1901. In that year he purchased forty acres on section 15, New Buda township, and in 1908 he bought his present farm of a quarter section on section 16, New Buda township. He carries on general farming and stock-raising and in the conduct of his work displays foresight, initiative and good management.

On the 6th of April, 1884, Mr. Manchester married Miss Rosa De Long, a daughter of I. N. and Editha (Brooks) De Long. Her father, who was born in Indiana of Irish and French ancestry, removed to Ohio when a boy and in his early manhood came to Decatur county, Iowa, where he was numbered among the pioneer settlers. He was a farmer by occupation and was highly esteemed in his community. During the Civil war he served in a Missouri cavalry regiment. His wife, who was born in Kentucky of Yankee stock, was reared in Harrison county, Missouri, and there their marriage occurred. To this union were born ten children: Mrs. Manchester; Alonzo, of Texarkana, Texas; Marcellus, also of Texarkana; Hulda, who married Joseph Braby, now living in Harrison county, Missouri; John, of Lamoni, Iowa; Josephine, who married C. E. Weabel, of New Buda township; Fred O., of Bevier, Missouri; Blanche, who married William Dexter, of Lamoni, Iowa; Newton, of Lamar, Colorado; and Eunice, the wife of Roy Atterberry, of Blythedale, Missouri.

Mr. and Mrs. Manchester are the parents of eleven children: Stella L., who was born May 14, 1885, and is the wife of Ephraim McDaniel, a farmer of Blythedale, Missouri, by whom she has two children, Fern and Forrest; Garvin A., whose birth occurred November 17, 1886, and who is at home; Grace, born September 8, 1888, who died when ten months old; Bertha M., born December 27, 1889, now the wife of Carl McDaniel, a farmer of New Buda township, by whom she has a son and daughter, Clarence and Opal; Ernest E.,

born September 16, 1891, who is at home; Claude W., born January 21, 1893, who is at home; Florence Belle, born February 22, 1895, at home; Dorcas, born February 20, 1897, who will graduate from the Davis City high school with the class of 1916; and Morris Maynard, born November 24, 1899, Marjorie B., born April 11, 1902, and Mark W., born December 18, 1904, all attending the district school.

Mr. Manchester is independent in politics, voting for the man whom he deems best suited for the office in question. For two years he served as assessor of New Buda township and for fifteen years he has been school director, doing much in that time to promote the advancement of the public schools. He was for many years a member of the Masonic blue lodge at Leon, but is not now affiliated with that body. Both he and his wife belong to the Church of Christ at Davis City and take a keen interest in the furtherance of its work and the spread of its influence.

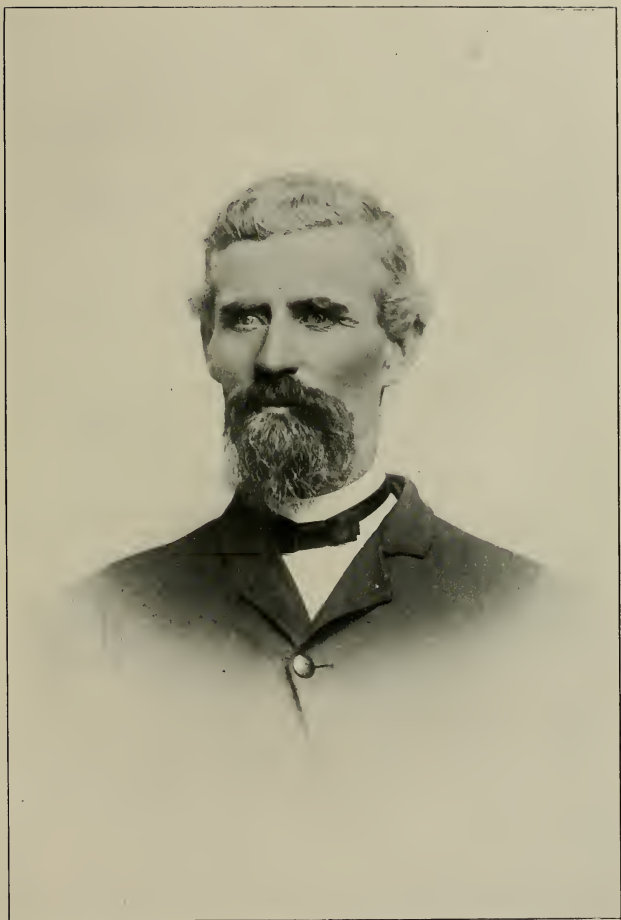
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### JAMES F. BOLON.

James F. Bolon was very successful as a farmer and stock-raiser and owned two hundred acres of fine land in New Buda township. He was born in Knox county, Ohio, on the 17th of December, 1837, a son of Ferdinand and Harriet (Bradfield) Bolon, both of whom passed away in the Buckeye state.

James F. Bolon was compelled to earn his own living when only twelve years of age and worked as a farm hand until he was nineteen years old. He then came to Decatur county, Iowa, and located in Morgan township, near Spring Valley, working for John Clark for four years. Subsequently he farmed in Morgan township until 1893, when he removed to New Buda township and purchased two hundred acres of fine land, upon which he resided until his death, August 12, 1911. He carried on general farming and stock-raising and as he was practical and energetic his labors were rewarded by excellent success.

On the 11th of January, 1859, Mr. Bolon was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Clark, a daughter of John and Grace (Gammill) Clark, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. To this union were born four children: Robert C., whose birth occurred on the 2d of May, 1860, and who is represented on another page of this volume; Althea, who was born July 22, 1861, and married James C.



JAMES F. BOLON



Keshlear, whose sketch is given elsewhere in this volume; Grace B., born June 9, 1868, who married John Gates, a banker of Davis City, and has three children, Dean, Robert and Bradford; and Margaret, who was born September 7, 1878, and is the wife of J. Smith, a farmer of Davis City.

Mr. Bolon was a republican in his political belief but never sought office. Mrs. Bolon is a Presbyterian and has taken an active part in church and Sunday school work. She resided upon the homestead with her son Robert until 1914, when she removed to Davis City and took up her abode in a fine residence which she erected. She has many friends in the county and is respected by all who know her. Mr. Bolon resided in this county for fifty-six years and was widely and favorably known. His dominant characteristics were energy, progressiveness and unswerving integrity, qualities which invariably command respect.

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### S. A. EDWARDS.

S. A. Edwards, of Pleasanton, has built up a large produce business and is respected as a man of ability and good judgment. He was born in Pleasanton on the 16th of April, 1861, a son of Charles and Ann (Crawley) Edwards, natives of England and of Tennessee respectively. The father emigrated to America when a young man and located at Council Bluffs, Iowa, whence he removed to Pleasanton, this county. He was a carriage maker by trade and worked at that occupation here and in Leon until the beginning of the Civil war, when he left to find a more favorable location and was never heard from again, the supposition being that he joined the army and was killed in battle. His widow survived until 1902.

S. A. Edwards grew to manhood in Pleasanton and acquired his education in the local schools. Upon starting out in life on his own account he worked as a farm hand for three years, after which he rented land which he operated for five years. He was next with a railroad bridge gang for eight years and then turned his attention to the produce business, in which he is still engaged. He is energetic, pays close attention to all the details of his business and the volume of his trade is constantly increasing.

In June, 1892, Mr. Edwards was united in marriage to Miss Vena M. Spencer, a daughter of Elijah and Etta (De Voss) Spencer, who are now living in Oklahoma although for many years they resided



in this county, where the father followed agricultural pursuits. Mrs. Edwards taught school in Pleasanton for thirteen years and was very successful in that profession. To Mr. and Mrs. Edwards have been born two children: Arthur L., who was married June 24, 1914, to Opal Bott and is engaged in the piano business in Humeston, Iowa; and Anna L., who was married November 25, 1912, to F. Leslie Grimes, of Leon, and has one son, Paul.

Mr. Edwards is a republican but has never desired to hold public office although he discharges all the duties of a good citizen. Fraternally he belongs to the Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Homesteaders, and his religious faith is that of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints, of which Mrs. Edwards is a member. She also belongs to the Royal Neighbors, the Rebekahs and the Homesteaders. Mr. Edwards has been a lifelong resident of this county and has thoroughly identified his interests with those of his community.

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### WILLIAM H. AKERS.

Among the well known and successful farmers of Decatur county is William H. Akers, of Grand River township, who was born in this county on the 22d of November, 1855, the fourth in order of birth of the twelve children born to the union of Benjamin and Mary Jane (Gunter) Akers. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Bede Akers, was born in Kentucky in 1799 and his wife, who bore the maiden name of Lydia Collings, was born in that state in 1802. They were married in 1819 and ten years later removed to Indiana, whence in 1839 they went to Missouri. They were the parents of thirteen children. Bede Akers passed away in Missouri in 1847. In 1852 his widow was united in marriage to John Tash and in that year they removed to Decatur county, where she passed away in 1877.

Benjamin Akers was born in Indiana, June 17, 1830, and on the 23d of February, 1851, was married in Mercer county, Missouri, to Miss Mary Jane Gunter, whose birth occurred in the Hoosier state on the 30th of October, 1831, and whose parents, Thomas and Nancy Gunter, became residents of Mercer county, Missouri. In 1851 Mr. and Mrs. Akers removed to Decatur county, Iowa, locating in Decatur township, where the father entered one hundred and sixty acres of land. The mother died May 6, 1873, and in 1875 the father was united in marriage to Mrs. Elizabeth Hickman, who passed away in

1878. Later the father was again married, Mrs. Mary A. McLaughlin becoming his wife. He passed away on the 25th of January, 1894, in this county. He was a democrat in politics and his religious faith was that of the Baptist church, in which he served as deacon. Benjamin and Mary Jane (Gunter) Akers were the parents of the following children: Elzann, who was born February 11, 1852; Sarah Ellen, whose birth occurred on the 23d of February, 1853, and who passed away February 19, 1870; Nancy Emorine, born May 8, 1854; William H., of this review; Lydia Ann, who was born July 16, 1857, and died September 8, 1876; Thomas F., born March 27, 1859; Jesse D., whose birth occurred February 8, 1861, and who died in Oregon, December 28, 1890; John H., who was born July 18, 1863, and who died September 10, 1864; Laura E., born August 17, 1865; Benjamin F., born May 22, 1867; Edgar B., whose birth occurred November 5, 1869, and who died June 9, 1870; and Mary Eva, born February 10, 1872. To the third marriage of Mr. Akers two children were born: Austin Elmer, whose birth occurred September 12, 1879; and Hattie L., born June 26, 1882.

William H. Akers was reared on the home farm in Decatur township and in the acquirement of an education attended the Huff school-house in that township, four miles northeast of Decatur City. The building was of logs and the furniture was very crude, the seats being long benches of slabs with pins for legs and without backs, and a rude desk was made by driving wooden pins into holes bored in the wall by an auger and by laying boards over the pins. In this pioneer school Mr. Akers acquired not only a knowledge of books but also habits of industry and application and through the training which he received at home he became familiar with agricultural methods and became impressed with the value of industry and integrity. On reaching mature years he determined to follow the occupation to which he was reared and has never had occasion to regret his decision as he has found farming both congenial and profitable. He owns one hundred acres of excellent land in Grand River township and his enterprise and progressiveness have enabled him to accumulate a competence.

Mr. Akers was married on the 17th of February, 1878, to Miss Mary J. Hickman, whose birth occurred on the 4th of July, 1863. Her paternal grandparents were Kimball and Mary (Cooper) Hickman, natives of Virginia, from which state they removed to Ohio and later came to Decatur county, Iowa, in 1859, settling in Eden township on a five hundred acre farm. There Mrs. Hickman died in 1865 and Mr. Hickman passed away in 1877. In their family were

ten children, including Joseph Hickman, the father of Mrs. Akers. He was born and reared in Ohio and came with his parents to this county, where he was married in 1861 to Miss Elizabeth McLaughlin, also a native of Ohio and a daughter of Henry and Susanna McLaughlin, of Missouri. Mrs. Akers' father died in 1871, and her mother passed away in 1878. She has two brothers: Henry K. Hickman, who now owns and operates a cattle ranch in the state of Washington; and Albert M., who has a well improved and valuable farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Bloomington township, Decatur county.

To Mr. and Mrs. Akers have been born six children, namely: Hallie A., who was born November 24, 1878, and who died April 12, 1888; Harry L., whose birth occurred July 31, 1881, and who died in August, 1883; Henry M., born September 10, 1886, who married Ruth Hoffman on the 28th of August, 1912; Jesse F., born January 12, 1890, who married Lavon Dufty on the 4th of March, 1914; Lizzie L., who was born March 26, 1892, and who on the 12th of March, 1913, was united in marriage to Joseph H. Board; and Elmer O., born November 14, 1898. Mr. and Mrs. Akers have one grandchild, Merlin Josephine Board, who was born February 15, 1914.

Mr. Akers is a republican and consistently supports the candidates of that party at the polls. He holds membership in the Palestine Baptist church of this county and is now serving as deacon therein. His life has measured up to high standards and he is respected not only because of his ability and enterprise but also because of his integrity.

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### MORTON W. ORDWAY.

Morton W. Ordway, a prosperous farmer residing on section 33, Burrell township, is a native of that township and was born on the 28th of December, 1875. His parents, Frank and Amelia (Lucia) Ordway, were natives respectively of New York and Canada. The father, who was by occupation a farmer, lived in Illinois for some time but at length came to Iowa. He eventually settled in Decatur county, buying the farm that is now in the possession of our subject. He devoted his time to the cultivation and improvement of that place until 1908, when he sold the farm to his son, Morton W., and removed to Davis City, where he has since resided. He enlisted in Nebraska for service in the Civil war and served at the front for four years,

five months and twenty-two days. He is now eighty-one years of age and his wife is seventy-six years old.

Morton W. Ordway was reared in this county and attended the public schools in the acquirement of an education. He assisted his father with the work of the homestead until he attained his majority and then purchased sixty acres of land in New Buda township. After operating that place for eleven years he bought the homestead, which comprises eighty acres of excellent land on section 33, Burrell township, and during the years that have since elapsed has devoted his time and energies to its further development, making a number of improvements. He has eight fine milch cows and is engaged in the dairy business to some extent. His knowledge of agricultural pursuits, combined with his energy and good management, enable him to net a good profit on his year's work.

On the 8th of December, 1896, occurred the marriage of Mr. Ordway and Miss Hattie Stevens, a daughter of Tip and Sarah (Burrell) Stevens, natives respectively of Indiana and Iowa. The father was brought to this county when but three years of age and was here reared and educated. On reaching man's estate he turned his attention to farming and continued to follow agricultural pursuits until he retired from active life and removed to Davis City, where he passed away July 14, 1913. His widow survives and still lives in Davis City. Mr. and Mrs. Ordway have become the parents of five children: Sarah, who died July 13, 1898, when fourteen months old; John, who died in August, 1901, when two and a half years old; Frank, eleven years of age, and Opal, aged eight, who are attending school; and Roy, who is an infant of one year.

Mr. Ordway gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and fraternally is a member of the Masonic order. He is highly spoken of in his community and has many sincere friends, his life having been lived in accordance with high standards of morality.

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### JOHN F. McWILLIAMS.

John F. McWilliams is living retired in Pleasanton in the enjoyment of a period of rest and leisure made possible by former well directed work as a farmer. He was born in Knox county, Illinois, on the 19th of April, 1843, and is a son of Robert and Margaret (Thurman) McWilliams, natives of Ohio. The father removed to Knox county, Illinois, when that region was still a pioneer section and



there engaged in farming during the remainder of his life, passing away in 1890. His widow survived him for seventeen years, her demise occurring in 1907.

John F. McWilliams passed his boyhood and youth under the parental roof and attended the public schools of his native county in the acquirement of an education. When he attained his majority he began farming for himself and continued to reside in the Prairie state until 1880. In that year he came to Decatur county, Iowa, purchasing land in Decatur township, which he cultivated and developed until 1900. He was at once practical and progressive and as he managed his financial affairs well he gained a competence which enabled him to retire from active work in that year. About 1912 his health became greatly impaired and he removed to Pleasanton, where he has since resided.

On the 19th of April, 1865, occurred the marriage of Mr. McWilliams and Harriet Barbero, a daughter of Frederick and Malinda (Bartlett) Barbero, natives of Oswego county, New York. The father was a farmer and in an early day he moved to Knox county, Illinois, where he followed agricultural pursuits for many years. He passed away in 1900, when ninety-two years of age, but was survived by his widow until 1904, her demise occurring when she was eighty-four years old. Mr. and Mrs. McWilliams have had three children: Andrew Adelbert, who is farming in Hamilton township; Mabel, who died in 1900; and Jennie P., who passed away in 1893.

Mr. McWilliams is a democrat and is staunch in his support of the candidates and principles of that party. He belongs to the Christian Union church and in his daily life exemplifies the teachings of that organization. He has resided in this county for thirty-five years and for a great part of that time was a factor in its agricultural development. He values highly the financial independence which he has won but esteems yet more the respect and confidence which his fellow citizens accord him.

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### JAMES M. ASHBURN.

James M. Ashburn, who has resided in Decatur county for almost sixty years, is now living retired at Lamoni. He was born in Tazewell county, Illinois, October 9, 1842, a son of Jesse and Elmira (Glass) Ashburn, natives respectively of Tennessee and of Ohio. They were married, however, at Vandalia, Fayette county, Illinois,



and resided in that state until October 9, 1856, when they came with their family to Decatur county, Iowa, and located in Burrell township. Eleven years later they went to Omaha, Nebraska, where the mother died when almost eighty-seven years of age. The death of the father occurred at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, when he was sixty-eight years old. They were the parents of ten children, who grew to maturity, nine of whom are still living.

James M. Ashburn was just fourteen years of age when he arrived in this county and has since made it his home, although he was for two years in Missouri and spent four years at the front during the Civil war. He enlisted in Company D, Fourth Iowa Infantry, and later veteranized in the same company and regiment. On returning from the army he concentrated his attention upon farming and stock-raising and for twenty-five years followed those pursuits successfully. He shipped stock extensively, deriving a good income from his activity in that line. After residing upon his home place for a number of years he and his wife removed to another farm which he owned near Tuskeega, where they lived for twelve years. At the end of that time they sold that property and returned to the home place, where they resided until they removed to Lamoni. Their farm, which comprises four hundred and twenty acres in Bloomington township, is now rented.

Mr. Ashburn was married on the 9th of May, 1867, to Miss Ruth E. Mercer, who was born in Putnam county, Indiana, July 3, 1847, a daughter of John and Margaret (McCulley) Mercer, who settled on Elk Creek, this county, in February, 1854. After residing there for a year they removed to a farm now included in the property owned by Mr. Ashburn. The father died in St. Louis, Missouri, on the 9th of February, 1863, when almost forty-four years of age. At the time he was a soldier in the Thirty-fourth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. His widow died on the 9th of October, 1867, when forty-five years old. Mrs. Ashburn, who is one of three children, is the only one still living. By her marriage she has become the mother of twelve children, eleven of whom survive: Laura Lucretia, the wife of Benjamin Warren, and a resident of Lamoni; James, deceased; Luella J., the wife of Charles R. Piercy, further mention of whom is made in this work; Margaret A., who married George Allen, of Lamoni; Dithema, the wife of William Turner, of Kirksville, Missouri; Nina, who married R. H. Brown, and lives at Wray, Colorado; William T., who owns two hundred and twenty acres of land and resides upon the old homestead; Armetta, the wife of B. F. Brown, who lives near Lamoni; Nellie L., who married Luther L. Bason, a

resident of the vicinity of Davis City; Jesse M., at home; and John T., who is married and resides on the homestead.

Mr. Ashburn is a republican and has served in a number of local offices, including that of township trustee. Fraternally he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Lamoni, of which lodge he is a charter member. He is also identified with John R. Andrews Post, G. A. R., of Lamoni, and has filled several offices in that organization and also in the Odd Fellows. The leisure which he is now enjoying is well deserved and all who know him accord him unqualified respect and high esteem.

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### JOHN BELL.

John Bell has been engaged in wagon making in Leon since 1869 and some of the wagons which he made thirty-five years ago are still in use, which is proof of the excellence of his work. He was born at Keedy's Mill, on the Antietam river, Maryland, August 13, 1838, a son of Daniel and Mary (Warner) Bell. The father was born at Bedford, Pennsylvania, and was a son of John Bell, a miller by trade, who emigrated from Germany to America prior to the Revolutionary war and settled in Pennsylvania. He fought for the independence of the colonies and was a man of many admirable qualities. Daniel Bell conducted a shop at Hagerstown, Ohio, for some time, but subsequently removed to Stark county, that state, where he followed his trade until his demise, which occurred when he was in his seventy-sixth year. His wife was also born in Pennsylvania and was a daughter of John Warner, who farmed and conducted a sawmill in Bedford county, Pennsylvania. To their union were born eleven children, of whom our subject is the sixth in order of birth and of whom eight grew to maturity. All are now deceased, save John and a sister, Mrs. Susan Fouts, who is living at Canton, Ohio.

John Bell accompanied his parents to Harrison county, Ohio, when eight years of age and later removed with the family first to Stark county and then to Tuscarawas county, that state. He attended the subscription schools and also learned the wagon maker's trade from his father during his boyhood. On the outbreak of the Civil war he joined the Union army, enlisting in Company A, Thirteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, on the 18th of April, 1861. When the three months for which he had enlisted expired, he reenlisted for three years and in 1864 veteranized in the same company and regi-

ment, serving in all for four years and eight months. He was first with the army in Virginia and later was with the western army in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Louisiana and went with Sherman as far as Atlanta, Georgia. He was discharged at San Antonio, Texas, to which point his command had been sent. He participated in the battles of Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain, took part in the fighting about Atlanta and was in twenty-three general engagements. He was twice wounded and was twice taken prisoner by John Morgan's men, once near Nashville, Tennessee, and the other time near Whitesburg on the Tennessee river. After being discharged from the service he returned to Ohio, but in 1869 he settled in Leon, Decatur county, Iowa, which has ever since remained his home. He immediately opened a wagon shop and has made many of the wagons used in this county, where he has long been recognized as an excellent workman and as a thoroughly reliable business man. From time to time he has also given some attention to farming and to carpentering.

Mr. Bell was married in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, in April, 1867, to Mrs. Mary A. Yanney, who was born in Wayne county, Ohio, on the 25th of August, 1843, a daughter of Henry and Mary (Kanagy) Reefy, both natives of Switzerland, where their marriage occurred and where two of their children were born. Upon emigrating to the United States with their family, they settled in Wayne county, Ohio, where Mr. Reefy gave the greater part of his attention to farming, although he was by trade a shoemaker. Both he and his wife passed away in Tuscarawas county, that state. They were the parents of eight children, of whom Mrs. Bell is the seventh in order of birth. One died in Switzerland and three sons and three daughters reached maturity, but Mrs. Bell is now the only one living. She was reared in Tuscarawas county and first married Edward Yanney, who served in the Civil war in an Ohio regiment and who died at Franklin, Tennessee. To that union was born a daughter, Ida M., the deceased wife of W. A. Alexander, of Leon. Mr. and Mrs. Bell have five children: Eva, who married O. S. Long, of Shenandoah, Iowa; Harry P., who is a pharmacist by profession; Edgar E., a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Ralph R., who was killed in a railroad accident near Davis City, this county, when twenty years of age; and Susan, the wife of R. A. Grimm, who is manager of the Bell Telephone Company at Omaha.

Mr. Bell is a republican, as he believes that the adoption of the policies for which that party stands would insure the continued prosperity and welfare of the country. He has been a member of the

Grand Army of the Republic for many years and for thirty-seven years has belonged to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while his wife holds membership in the Rebekahs. Both were formerly identified with the Methodist Episcopal church. There are few others now living in Leon who were here at the time of his arrival in this city and in the forty-six years that have elapsed since, he has at all times done his share in promoting the advancement of his community. He has erected a fine residence and is recognized as a substantial and representative citizen. While living in Ohio he formed the acquaintanceship of William McKinley and his mother and became a close personal friend of the McKinley family.

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### RANSOM J. HARMON.

Ransom J. Harmon, who passed away on the 29th of August, 1910, was one of the leading brick mason contractors of Decatur county and built a large number of the brick buildings in Davis City. He was born in Niagara county, New York, on the 16th of June, 1835, a son of Benjamin and Clarice (Ripley) Harmon, likewise natives of the Empire state. They removed to Nebraska when that state was largely a frontier district and the father engaged in farming there for many years. He passed away in 1894 and his widow died eleven years later.

Ransom J. Harmon was reared and educated in Wisconsin, having left home when but a boy and removed to Wisconsin, where he resided with an aunt. On the 29th of April, 1861, while visiting another aunt who resided in Minneapolis, he enlisted in the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and on the 21st of July, of that year, took part in the first battle of Bull Run. He was wounded but was not incapacitated for duty at the front for very long and was with the colors for three years, being mustered out on the 5th of May, 1864. He went to Illinois and in the fall of that year was there married. He and his wife continued to reside in that state for a decade, but in 1874 located in Davis City, Decatur county, Iowa, where he followed his trade, that of a brick mason, until his demise. He was recognized as an expert workman and it was known that he invariably lived up to his contract and as the years passed he gained a larger and larger patronage. He erected the greater number of the brick buildings in Davis City and his work has stood the test of time, as the buildings are still in good condition. His demise, which



occurred on the 29th of August, 1910, when he was seventy-five years of age, was sincerely mourned by many.

On the 22d of October, 1864, Mr. Harmon was married to Mrs. Mary A. (Shane) Goodrich, the widow of Charles Goodrich, by whom she had two children: Lizzie, the wife of A. Elphingstone, of Chicago, Illinois; and Etta, who married C. C. Bort, of Omaha, Nebraska. Her parents were Frederick and Elizabeth (Staley) Shane, natives respectively of Germany and of Pennsylvania. The father, who was by occupation a carriage trimmer, came to America in early manhood and located in Pennsylvania, where he followed his trade until his demise, which occurred in 1843. His wife died in February, 1904. Mr. and Mrs. Harmon became the parents of seven children: William R., a dentist who is now living retired at Los Angeles, California; Harry, a dentist of Des Moines, who also conducts an office at Cedar Rapids; Edna, who died March 8, 1899; Arthur, a dentist located at Cleo, Oklahoma; James, a dentist, who is practicing at Cedar Rapids, Iowa; George, a dentist, who is at Coats, Kansas; and Alice, the wife of S. G. Martz, a locomotive engineer who has a run between Battle Creek, Michigan, and Chicago.

Mr. Harmon was a republican and took a commendable interest in everything relating to the public welfare. His religious faith was that of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints, to which he belonged. He found much pleasure in association with his old army comrades in the Grand Army of the Republic and throughout his life manifested the same spirit of devotion to the general good that caused him in his early manhood to go to the defense of the Union.

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### JOSEPH W. KING.

Joseph W. King is successfully engaged in farming in Long Creek township and is well known and highly esteemed throughout Decatur county. A native of Black Hawk county, he was born on the 29th of September, 1860, a son of William and Delilah (Cochonour) King, both natives of Ohio. About 1856 the father, who was by occupation a wagon maker and carpenter, removed to Black Hawk county, Iowa, where he followed those trades for five years. Later he purchased land in Buchanan county, Iowa, to which he gave his time and energy for about forty years, making his place one of the well improved properties of his neighborhood. In 1901 he went to Kansas, where he bought land, the operation of which



demanding his attention until his demise. He passed away in July, 1914, when seventy-eight years of age. His wife is now seventy-four years old and is still living in Jackson county, Kansas.

Joseph W. King was reared in Buchanan county, this state, and there attended the public schools in the acquirement of his education. When he became of age he rented land, which he operated until the spring of 1899. In that year he removed to Vernon county, Missouri, and for two years farmed leased land. In the spring of 1901, however, he came to Decatur county, Iowa, and purchased eighty acres on section 13, Long Creek township. Since that time he has concentrated his energies upon the operation and development of his farm, which is in a high state of cultivation. He combines general farming and stock-raising and is an alert and energetic agriculturist.

In October, 1883, occurred the marriage of Mr. King and Miss Hattie Steele, a daughter of Charles and Martha (Ellsworth) Steele, natives respectively of New York and Vermont. For some time the father followed agricultural pursuits in Illinois but in 1870 he located in Buchanan county, Iowa, and there his demise occurred in 1878. The mother is still living and makes her home at Troy Mills, Linn county. To Mr. and Mrs. King have been born two children: Ethel G., the wife of A. E. Blair, of Osceola; and Walter H., who is attending Simpson College at Indianola.

Mr. King is stalwart in his allegiance to the republican party and is equally loyal as a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which he takes an active part. In doing well the task that lies closest at hand he has not only promoted his material success but has also contributed to the agricultural development of his county and he likewise finds time to cooperate in various movements that seek directly the general welfare.

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### NEWTON JUDD.

Newton Judd, a successful farmer of Garden Grove township, was widely known in Decatur county, where he had resided for fifty-eight years at the time of his demise on the 5th of February, 1912. He was born in Pike county, Illinois, November 16, 1843, a son of Hawkins and Almira (Pettis) Judd. The father was born in Windsor county, Vermont, October 25, 1802, of English stock, and became an early settler of Illinois, whence he removed with his family to Decatur county, Iowa, in 1854. He was a man of means and bought

a large amount of land in Decatur, Taylor and other counties in Iowa which he cultivated and improved. He developed and sold a number of farms at a good profit and was also successful as a general farmer and stock-raiser. He was married in Illinois, December 29, 1842, to Almira Pettis, who was born in Kingston, Canada, February 9, 1825. She passed away in Decatur county, Iowa, on the 29th of November, 1903, in the faith of the Episcopal church, having survived her husband since February 18, 1871. To their union were born six children: Newton, of this review; Oscar, a resident of Davis City, Iowa; Stephen; William; Mary; and Allen, who is living in Des Moines.

Newton Judd was reared and educated in Decatur county and gave much of his time to assisting with the work of the homestead. He devoted his entire life to agricultural pursuits and became the owner of an excellent farm in Garden Grove township. He grew the usual crops and also raised considerable stock, finding both branches of his business profitable.

Mr. Judd was married on the 22d of October, 1873, to Miss Alida Guernsey, who was born in Cass county, Michigan, April 17, 1852, of the marriage of James and Deborah (Hanson) Guernsey, natives respectively of Ohio and New Jersey. In 1864 her parents located in the northeastern part of Garden Grove township, Decatur county, Iowa, and the father purchased a farm there which he operated until 1879. In that year he removed to Rush county, Kansas, and subsequently went to Oklahoma, where he passed away at the age of seventy-four years. His wife died in Rush county, Kansas, when seventy-three years old. In early life they were members of the Presbyterian church but later transferred their membership to the Christian church. They were the parents of six children, as follows: Charles, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Mrs. Judd; Clara, who gave her hand in marriage to William Walker; Mrs. May Cowen, deceased; and Homer and Elmer, residing at Pond Creek, Oklahoma. Mrs. Judd was twelve years of age when she accompanied her parents to Decatur county and continued her education in the schools of Garden Grove. Subsequently she studied for two years in Chicago and for four years followed the profession of teaching in Decatur, Wayne and Clarke counties.

To Mr. and Mrs. Judd were born seven children, as follows: Carrie, who taught successfully for some time, became the wife of George Briggs. He was for several years connected with educational work in the Philippine Islands and is now in the educational department of the Panama-Pacific Exposition at San Francisco. She died

in the Philippines in January, 1909, leaving three children: Dorothy, aged eleven; and Ruth and Elizabeth, twins. Mr. Briggs subsequently married Miss Grace Kelley, of Independence, Missouri. Mabel is the wife of Harry Arnold, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work, and they have four children, Judd, Elsie, Harriet and Edgar. Fred is operating the home farm for his mother. Mary gave her hand in marriage to Frank Boyd, of Grand River, and they have a daughter, Louise, ten years of age. Ralph, who is farming near Pleasanton, married Laura Warrington and they have a son, Joseph. Bessie is the wife of William J. Stearns, of Salesville, Montana, by whom she has two children, Robert and Elizabeth. Thomas, who is living in Billings, Montana, married Miss Hattie Carneau.

Mr. Judd was a democrat in his political belief and staunchly supported the policies and candidates of that party at the polls. He thoroughly identified his interests with those of Decatur county and during the fifty-eight years that he lived here not only witnessed a remarkable growth in prosperity and advance in civilization but also did his part toward bringing about the material and moral development of his community. His widow owns an excellently improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres and in 1914 built a fine residence. She is well known and all who have been brought in contact with her esteem her for her many admirable qualities of character.

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### THOMAS RAINS.

For many years Thomas Rains was engaged in stock-raising in New Buda township and was well known and highly esteemed throughout the county. His birth occurred in Whitley county, Kentucky, September 3, 1846, and his parents were William and Christina (Martin) Rains, both natives of Kentucky. The father, who was by occupation a farmer and who removed to St. Joseph, Missouri, with his family when our subject was but nine years of age, died in Andrew county, Missouri, in 1855 and his wife passed away in Fremont county, Iowa, in 1867.

Thomas Rains attended the district schools in Missouri and enlisted at St. Joseph in Company C, Seventh Kansas Volunteer Cavalry. He saw a great deal of active service, taking part in several engagements and remaining with his command until the close of the war. He was almost constantly on horseback for some time at the

front and the continuous riding permanently injured his health. After peace was restored he worked for a time at Bethany, Missouri, after which he removed to Fremont county, Iowa, where he found employment as a farm hand. In 1872 his marriage occurred and not long afterward he removed to Decatur county, where he resided until his demise. On the 10th of March, 1888, he located on the farm on section 21, New Buda township, where his widow still lives. She was given one hundred and sixty acres by her father and Mr. Rains subsequently added two hundred acres to the tract. He bred Percheron horses and owned some fine stallions, including Kentucky Jack and Spanish Jack. He gained quite a reputation as a horse breeder and found a ready sale for his animals. He also raised good grade hogs and cattle, which likewise proved a profitable occupation. He passed away on the 30th of January, 1911.

On the 1st of December, 1872, Mr. Rains was married to Miss Mary Belle Adkins, a daughter of Christopher and Elizabeth (Martin) Adkins. The father was born in North Carolina of Turkish and American stock and in an early day in the history of this county settled here, locating on Grand river. For many years he resided in Harrison county, Missouri, and gained unusual success as a farmer, acquiring title to some twelve hundred acres of excellent land in Harrison and Mercer counties, Missouri, and Decatur County, Iowa. He raised the usual crops but gave a great deal of his attention to the breeding of stock. He passed away in New Buda township, this county. His wife was born in Kentucky of Irish descent and their marriage was celebrated in the Blue Grass state. She passed away December 23, 1889, upon the homestead in Harrison county. They were the parents of seven children, two of whom survive, namely: Mrs. Rains; and Mrs. Samantha Jane Woodard, of Clarinda, Iowa.

To Mr. and Mrs. Rains were born ten children, as follows: Rosa Belle, born November 7, 1873, who died when three years old; W. R., born December 11, 1875, a rancher of Oklahoma, who married Miss Pearl Redman; Myrtle, born October 27, 1877, who married Gory Higdon, a rancher of Oklahoma; Elizabeth, born August 19, 1879, who died when three months old; Dolly, who died at the age of fifteen months; Annie, who died at the age of ten months; Nora Minerva, whose birth occurred April 26, 1887, and is now the wife of L. C. Toney, a farmer living in Burrell township; Grover C., who was born August 18, 1888, who is farming the home place; Etta, born June 27, 1890, now the wife of Frank Maynard, a farmer of New Buda township; and Thomas, born June 23, 1892, who is farming in New Buda township and who married Miss Minnie Broughton.



Mr. Rains was a democrat and for two terms served as constable in Missouri, while for a number of years he was a school director in New Buda township. He was a loyal member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Davis City and thus kept in touch with his comrades of former years. Since his demise his widow has remained upon the homestead and her son Grover now has charge of the operation of the farm. Our subject gained the sincere friendship of many and all who came in contact with him in business or social relations found him a gentleman of the highest standards of honor and of pleasing personality. As a stock-raiser he was successful in a marked degree and contributed to the development of his county along that line.

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### JAMES H. EVANS.

James H. Evans, who has lived retired for about twenty years, having gained a competence that insures him of comfort, was born on the 3d of January, 1845, at Cheddar, England, a son of Edwin and Sarah (Hill) Evans, who were likewise natives of that place. The father was by trade an envelope cutter and followed that occupation for a number of years in England, but in 1848 removed with his family to the United States, settling in New York state. In 1850 they came to Iowa and located in Delaware county, where the father engaged in farming. He was one of the pioneer settlers of that county and during the first few years that the family resided there their nearest neighbors were a number of miles distant and Indians could still be seen occasionally. Both parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and were highly esteemed in their locality. The demise of the father occurred on the 12th of March, 1906, and that of the mother in 1902. Two of their children died in infancy; James H., of this review, is the next in order of birth; and Walter is living in Grand River township, Decatur county.

James H. Evans received his education in the public schools of Delaware county but much of his time as a boy and youth was given to assisting his father with the work of the farm. When he was eighteen years of age he enlisted in Company B, Fourth Iowa Cavalry, and served in the Union army until the 24th of August, 1865, when he was discharged at Atlanta, Georgia, after having been in the army for almost two years, as he enlisted on the 28th of September, 1863. He fought in the battles of Tupelo; Guntown; Salem, Alabama;



Columbus, Georgia; Meridian and Oxford, Mississippi; and Osage, Kansas; and was in the army that opposed General Price at Big Blue river and Independence, Missouri. Not only did Mr. Evans have a part in driving General Price and his army from Missouri, but he also assisted in the capture of General Marmaduke and eight hundred prisoners and participated in the battles of Jackson and Black River Bridge, Mississippi, as well as other engagements of lesser importance.

After returning from the war Mr. Evans began farming in Delaware county, Iowa, and gained gratifying success in that connection, proving himself a practical and able agriculturist. In 1890 he took the census of North Fork township, Delaware county, and his work was very satisfactory to his superiors. In connection with his farming he was for many years engaged in auctioneering, which business he took up in 1880. He found it very profitable and also enjoyed the opportunity that it gave him of enlarging his acquaintanceship, as, in connection with his work, he met many people who became his warm friends. In 1893 he removed to Decatur county and purchased a farm, which he operated for a time. For about two decades he has lived retired at Leon. He now holds the office of overseer of the poor at Leon and is president of the soldiers' relief fund and gives no little time and energy to the discharge of the duties devolving upon him in those connections.

Mr. Evans was married on the 12th of December, 1866, to Miss Jane Tincknell, a daughter of George and Betsy Tincknell, natives of England. Mr. and Mrs. Evans have become the parents of the following children: E. F.; James; two daughters who bore the name of Annie, both of whom are deceased; Amelia, deceased; Ida, who married James Zornes and who has now passed away; and Minnie, Mattie, John and George. Minnie first married William Fitch, by whom she has one child, Lora, and following his demise she was united in marriage to James Zornes, by whom she has had two children, Grace and Margaret. George, who is a physician located at Kansas City, Missouri, married Miss Maggie Gibson and they have one child, Audra.

Mr. Evans is a republican and is stalwart in his support of that party which rallied to the defense of the Union. His religious belief is indicated by his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and for many years he has been very active in the work of that organization, having filled almost every office in the church, and he has also served acceptably as Sunday-school superintendent. The Grand Army of the Republic finds in him a loyal member and he has been

commander of the Leon post and also quartermaster thereof. Although he has retired from active business, he is by no means idle, as he finds much to do in working for the success of undertakings conceived to promote the welfare of his city and county.

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### CHARLES H. BARROWS.

Charles H. Barrows has been engaged in the drug business in Lamoni since 1890 and is a registered optometrist. His birth occurred at Salt Lake City, Utah, June 15, 1863, and he is a son of Ethan and Lucy (Hardy) Barrows, both of whom are deceased. The paternal grandfather, Jacob Barrows, served in the Revolutionary war. The father, who was born in Vermont, became identified with the church of Latter Day Saints in 1835 at St. Johnsbury, that state, and was baptized by William E. McClellan, one of the first twelve. He was with the Mormons in Kirtland, Ohio, and in Nauvoo, Illinois, and went to Utah in the year 1849-50. In 1881 he joined the reorganized church, his views conflicting with those of Brigham Young, who was at the head of the original church. Mr. Barrows passed away at Salt Lake City when eighty-six years of age. He served as a member of the fifth quorum of the seventy in the old church and as an elder in the reorganized church. His wife, who was born in Massachusetts, died at Independence, Missouri, when seventy-one years old.

Charles H. Barrows resided in Salt Lake City until he was twenty-seven years of age and after attending the public schools became a student in a local academy. In his early manhood he followed civil engineering for some time, being employed in railroad work and in land surveying. In 1890 he came to Lamoni and has since been the proprietor of one of the best drug stores of the county. He is a registered pharmacist and not only has accurate technical knowledge of the drug business, but also possesses that sound judgment and enterprise which are so essential to success in any commercial undertaking. He took courses in optometry in Kansas City, South Bend, Indiana, Chicago and New York and was the first optometrist to register at Leon. He is now the oldest merchant of Lamoni in point of years of conducting business here, and for some time handled wall-paper, paint, etc., in addition to drugs and druggists' sundries. At one time the postoffice was located in his store and he served as deputy postmaster under Mrs. Resseguie.

In 1892 Mr. Barrows was married at Lamoni to Miss Jennie M. Allen, of Alton, Illinois, a daughter of James and Mary Allen and

a granddaughter of James Whitehead, at one time private secretary to Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormon church. Mr. and Mrs. Barrows have eight children, namely: Nina G., Allen K., Sidney C., Bessie V., Malcolm B., Donald I., Stanley W. and Lois C. The last named is an adopted child.

Mr. Barrows is a democrat in politics and is zealous in his work for the success of that party. He is now serving as an alderman. He and his family belong to the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints and take an active part in the work of that organization. He has met with gratifying success as a druggist and as an optometrist and during the years that he has been in business in Lamoni his patronage has steadily increased. He lives in a comfortable residence, which was formerly the home of his wife's grandfather, James Whitehead.

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### JOHN E. McCLARAN.

John E. McClaran, a worthy native son and representative agriculturist of Decatur county, is now the owner of four hundred acres of valuable land on section 32, Burrell township. His birth occurred in Hamilton township, this county, in June, 1868, his parents being James and Gussella (Clark) McClaran, both natives of Ohio. The father, a farmer by occupation, removed to Indiana in an early day and in that state followed farming for some time. Subsequently he came to Decatur county, Iowa, purchasing a tract of land in Hamilton township which he cultivated for a good many years, later removing to New Buda township and afterward to Burrell township, where he was actively identified with agricultural pursuits until his demise in October, 1897. His undertakings were attended with a most gratifying measure of success and at the time of his death he owned about six hundred acres of rich and productive land. His wife was called to her final rest in November, 1911.

John E. McClaran was reared and educated in this county and after attaining his majority cultivated a rented tract of land for one year. Subsequently he bought and began the improvement of eighty acres of land on section 32, Burrell township, and later augmented his holdings by additional purchase from time to time until he now owns four hundred acres on that section. He leases the greater part of the land but is still actively connected with farming and live-stock

interests, raising high grade stock and deriving a gratifying income from both branches of his business.

In April, 1891, Mr. McClaran was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Martin, daughter of Julius and Sarah (Lasley) Martin, who were natives of Ohio and became pioneer settlers of Decatur county. The father followed farming in New Buda township until the time of his death in 1896, but the mother survives and lives on the old home place. Mr. and Mrs. McClaran have two daughters, Una and Helen, who are twenty and eighteen years of age respectively.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. McClaran has supported the men and measures of the republican party and he has ably served as trustee of Burrell township for some time. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the United Brethren church and he is also a worthy exemplar of the Masonic fraternity. His entire life has been spent within the borders of Decatur county and he is well known and highly esteemed as one of its substantial agriculturists and representative citizens.

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### PETER BRENAMAN.

Peter Brenaman, a farmer, who owns and together with a son-in-law operates three hundred and twenty acres of finely improved land in Grand River township, three quarters of a mile from the town of Grand River, has resided in this county since 1853 and for many years has been closely identified with its advancement. His birth occurred in Blair county, Pennsylvania, July 31, 1841, and he is a son of Henry and Esther (Cryder) Brenaman, both of whom were natives of the Keystone state. The father was of Irish descent and the mother of Dutch lineage. In the spring of 1852 they removed to Jefferson county, Iowa, and in the fall of 1853 came with their family to Decatur county. The father, who had some means, purchased a farm on the bottoms which is now the home of John Leffler and later owned the site of Grand River village. When a townsite company was formed he sold one hundred and fifty acres to them, retaining ten acres. The house which he erected is still standing. He passed away in 1885, when seventy-eight years of age, and his wife died in 1872, when sixty years old. She was a Lutheran in religious faith. To them were born five children: Peter; Sarah, who married Frank Shields and who passed away in the middle '70s, when thirty years of age; Mary, the wife of Nelson Eaves, of Grand River;



Blair, of Richland township, this county; and Roland, of Grand River.

Peter Brenaman was reared in this county as he was but twelve years of age when he accompanied his parents here and he acquired his education in the district schools. He continued to reside under the parental roof until the 15th of August, 1862, when he enlisted in Company I, Thirty-fourth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for exactly three years, being mustered out on the 15th of August, 1865. He became a non-commissioned officer and never faltered in the performance of his duty as a soldier. He was in eight general engagements, including the siege of Vicksburg, during which his command was a part of the Thirteenth Army Corps. Although he saw much hard fighting he was fortunate in that he was never wounded. He returned home after receiving his honorable discharge and resumed the work of farming. As the years have passed he has prospered and is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of excellent land in Grand River township and derives a handsome income from his farm, which he devotes to the growing of the usual crops and the raising of high grade stock. The place is excellently improved and the land is in a high state of cultivation and its value is further increased by the fact that it is located within three quarters of a mile of the town of Grand River.

In 1868 Mr. Brenaman married Miss Elizabeth Quiett, who was born near Knoxville, Tennessee, May 16, 1845, a daughter of Cyrus and Nancy (Underwood) Quiett, the latter of Quaker descent. Her parents removed to Edgar county, Illinois, in 1847 and after residing there for ten years removed with their family to Jefferson county, Iowa, whence in 1862 they came to Decatur county, locating on a small farm in Richland township. The father passed away upon the home farm in 1872, when seventy-two years of age. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as was his wife, who spent her later years with a daughter, Mrs. Switzer, passing away at the latter's home in 1878, when sixty years of age. She was the mother of three daughters and one son, those aside from Mrs. Brenaman being: Sarah, the deceased wife of Jacob Switzer, her demise occurring January 25, 1912; Mrs. Mary J. Bradshaw, who lives in Grand River; and Henry C., of Leon. Mrs. Brenaman was but twelve years of age when the family removed to this state and here she grew to womanhood. She received a fair education and taught school for three terms. Mr. and Mrs. Brenaman have two daughters. Cora is the wife of Asbury Gard, who is assisting our subject in the operation of his farm. Mr. and Mrs. Gard have a daughter, Ethel



Ruth, who is a member of the class of 1917 of Simpson College at Indianola. Nellie, the other daughter of our subject, died September 12, 1896, at the age of twenty-one years.

Mr. Brenaman is a republican in his political belief and has served acceptably as road supervisor, as assessor and in other local offices, while at various times he has refused proffered nominations. For years he was a member of Andrews Post, No. 376, G. A. R. He and his wife and daughter, Mrs. Gard, are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Grand River and take a commendable interest in the work of its various departments. Mr. Brenaman has won the respect of all who have been associated with him not only as a successful agriculturist but also as a man of high principles and as a citizen of praiseworthy public spirit.

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### CAPTAIN ELI H. ALEXANDER.

The demise of Captain Eli H. Alexander, which occurred May 5, 1903, at Leon was the occasion of much sincere grief as he was widely known and highly esteemed. He was a man of unquestioned integrity and of marked public spirit and he had given indisputable proof of his patriotism, having served in both the Mexican and Civil wars. His birth occurred in Jackson county, Indiana, March 11, 1822, and his parents were Reuben and Jean (Wilson) Alexander, both natives of North Carolina. The father died when his son Eli was about six months old, leaving a widow and a large family. The mother kept her children together and succeeded in giving them the limited education afforded by the common schools, the course of study including little more than the three Rs. As soon as our subject was old enough he began learning the blacksmith's trade and was soon an excellent workman. In 1846 he enlisted under Captain Henry Davis in Company F, Second Indiana Infantry, for service in the war with Mexico, remaining at the front until 1847, when he was honorably discharged and returned home. On the 1st of November of that year he was married and in 1855 he removed to Decatur county, Iowa, with his family, settling on section 24, High Point township. For some time he devoted a great deal of attention to the cultivation and improvement of the homestead but when his boys grew old enough to assume the responsibility of the operation of the place he turned the farm over to them and opened a blacksmith shop.

In the meantime the southern states had attempted to secede from the Union and the government needed the services of its able-bodied men. In the summer of 1861 Mr. Alexander responded to the president's call for troops, enlisting in Company A, Thirty-fourth Iowa Infantry, of which he was elected captain. He was never known to shrink from the performance of any duty no matter how dangerous it might be and his loyalty and courage made him a leader whom his men were glad to follow. He was offered promotion many times but steadfastly refused it, wishing to remain with the boys who went to the front with him. He was in the midst of much hard fighting and in addition to participating in many noted battles took part in the sieges of Chickasaw Bluffs, Arkansas Post and Vicksburg. He continued in the service for some time after his health began to fail but at length he was forced to resign and his regimental surgeon told him to "go home to die." However, with the expert nursing of his wife he soon began to improve in health and before many months was able to take up the routine work of the farm. He continued to reside upon the homestead until 1886 although, as previously stated, he gave much of his time to following the blacksmith's trade, leaving the agricultural work to his sons. In that year he left the farm in charge of one of his sons and with his wife removed to Hastings, Nebraska, where three of his sons were living. However, after residing there for a few years he returned to Leon as he desired to be close to his old friends and he continued to make his home in that city until May 5, 1903, when he passed away. His wife survived him until February 22, 1904.

Captain Alexander married Sallie E. Flinn, a daughter of William and Sarah (Houston) Flinn, and to this union were born nine children. Curtis L., of Hastings, Nebraska, was formerly engaged in the transfer business but is now living retired. He married Miss Harriette Caldwell. Eugene O., of Leon, was united in marriage to Miss Esther Macy. Morris L., who is deceased, married Sylvia Caldwell. Cora is deceased. A sketch of W. A., of Leon, appears elsewhere in this work. Edward H., who is residing in Leon, was formerly in the piano business but is now retired. He married Miss Barbara Caldwell. Lenna Florence is the wife of S. A. Gates, an attorney at Leon, further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work. She was first married to Dr. D. A. Houston, of Lewisburg, who lived but a few years. Emma E. gave her hand in marriage to Frank Thompson and following his demise became the wife of H. E. Procter, of Huntington Beach, California. Olive is deceased.

Captain Alexander cast his ballot in support of the measures and candidates of the republican party. He was a prominent Mason and was a conscientious Christian, who believed that Christianity consisted in the observance of the golden rule rather than in loud protestations of piety. In all relations of life his conduct measured up to high standards and his influence was always exerted for the moral advancement of his community and the triumph of righteousness and justice. He was one of the early settlers of Decatur county and manifested the hardihood and courage of the pioneer, serving his country as well in times of peace as he did in times of war.

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### FRANK BONNETT.

Frank Bonnett is one of the most extensive stockmen and farmers of New Buda township, where he owns four hundred and thirty acres of excellent land. He was born in Knox county, Illinois, March 11, 1854, of the marriage of William and Mary Ellen (Euett) Bonnett. The father was born in Ohio of Dutch ancestry and the mother was likewise a native of that state, where their marriage occurred. In 1854 they emigrated to Illinois and four years later came with their family to Decatur, Decatur county, Iowa. Subsequently they removed to Missouri but after farming there for ten years they returned to this county, where the father purchased land, which he operated until his demise. The mother also passed her last days here.

Frank Bonnett attended school in Missouri, at Leon and in New Buda township and remained upon the farm with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age. He then became a farm hand and worked in the employ of others for two years, carefully saving his money in the meantime. He then bought forty acres of land, which he began farming for himself. He made a number of improvements upon the place and as he carefully husbanded his resources he was able from time to time to make additional purchases of land and today owns four hundred and thirty acres, one hundred and sixty of which is comprised in his home place, one hundred and ninety acres is located on section 20 and eighty acres on section 28, all in New Buda township. He rents about forty acres to others, raises grain on about seventy acres and devotes the rest of his holdings to pasture and hay lands. He raises a good grade of cattle, hogs and horses and feeds and ships from one to three carloads of cattle annually and about

three carloads of hogs, using both the St. Joseph, Missouri, and Chicago markets. His farm is well improved, all of the buildings are substantial and well adapted to their purpose and the fields are inclosed by strong fencing, although when he purchased his land all of it was in a wild state.

On the 20th of February, 1873, Mr. Bonnett married Miss Maggie Conroy, a daughter of John and Catherine (Spain) Conroy, natives of Ireland, who emigrated to America and located in Clinton county, Iowa. The mother died in that county but the father subsequently removed with his family to this county, where his demise occurred. During the Civil war he served as a soldier and made a very commendable record. Mrs. Bonnett was born in Clinton county, Iowa, about 1859. By her marriage she has become the mother of five children: Osa, who was born May 3, 1874, and who is at home; Mamie, born September 3, 1877, also at home; and three who died in infancy.

Mr. Bonnett is a democrat and takes a keen interest in public affairs, although he has never had the time to take an active part in politics. His wife is a devout member of the Roman Catholic church of Clinton county, Iowa. He is one of the most successful stock-raisers of his township and his prosperity is due solely to his own efforts, as he began his independent business career without capital or influential friends.

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### CHARLES E. BLAIR.

Charles E. Blair, manager of the Supply Store at Lamoni, operated by the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints, has demonstrated his right to rank with the able and progressive business men of Decatur county. He was born in Lee county, Illinois, in 1851, a son of the late Elder W. W. Blair, further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work.

Charles E. Blair was reared in Illinois and there received a good education. In 1887 he removed to Lamoni and has since made this city his place of residence, although for years he was a commercial traveler and in that capacity visited many states of the Union. He represented at various times dry-goods, machinery and provision houses and in his thirty years' experience on the road became thoroughly familiar with various lines of merchandise and also gained an insight into the most successful methods of conducting a mercan-



tile business. For the last seven years he has been manager of the Supply Store at Lamoni and the experience which he gained as a traveling salesman has been of great benefit to him in his present position. The store is one of the largest and best equipped in Decatur county and Mr. Blair is constantly seeking to render greater service to his customers and studies carefully their needs, striving to keep in stock all commodities for which there is a demand.

Mr. Blair was married in Illinois to Miss Dorothy M. Westfall, a native of Michigan, who, however, was reared in the state of New York and resided in Illinois for two years before her marriage. To this union have been born two children. William S. is engaged in the real-estate business in Dallas, Texas, and is meeting with gratifying success in his chosen occupation. He was a lieutenant in the Forty-fourth United States Volunteers during the Spanish-American war and served in the Philippines for three years. His wife was formerly Miss Vitura Benson, of Marshalltown, Iowa, and they have one child, Virginia. Bessie is now Mrs. Henry Minor, of Leon, and has a son and daughter.

Mr. Blair gives his political allegiance to the republican party as he believes that its policies are best adapted to secure the permanent welfare of the country. Fraternally he belongs to the Masonic order and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and both he and his wife hold membership in the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints, of which he is a deacon. He is not only held in high esteem because of his unquestioned business ability but is also respected for his integrity and sterling worth as a man.

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### DELOS FREMONT NICHOLSON.

Delos Fremont Nicholson, who passed away in Lamoni on the 21st of March, 1908, lived retired for a number of years before his demise but during his active life was a leader in financial circles of Decatur county. He established the first bank in Lamoni, which later became the State Savings Bank. Mr. Nicholson was a native of Hector, Schuyler county, New York, born December 11, 1855, a son of Charles and Fanny (Cady) Nicholson, natives respectively of Sandusky, Ohio, and Florence, New York. His great-great-grandfather, Joshua Nicholson, settled at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1740, emigrating to this country from England. The grandfather, Joshua Nicholson, became one of the early pioneers of western



New York and passed away there in 1865 when eighty-seven years of age. The maternal grandfather was Philip Cady, who was born in Johnstown, New York, in 1787. The birth of Charles Nicholson, the father of our subject, occurred in 1819 and that of the mother in 1828. They were married in Florence, New York, on the 13th of August, 1850, and not long afterward located in Hector, that state, where the father engaged in farming. In 1870 he removed to Sandwich, Illinois, with his family. He was a great lover of books and dealt quite extensively in old and rare volumes. He passed away at Sandusky, Ohio, in 1883, while visiting there, but his body was taken to Sandwich for burial. The demise of his wife occurred in Sandwich. To them were born eight children, five daughters and three sons, of whom two sons and two daughters survive. One daughter, Mrs. L. W. Jamison, resides near Lamoni.

Delos Fremont Nicholson went with the family to Illinois, in the fall of 1870, and completed his education in the schools of that state. He attended the classical seminary at Paw Paw, Illinois, and after leaving that institution taught in the district schools and in the schools of Paw Paw, later becoming principal of the Sandwich high school. He was successful in that profession but believed that there were greater opportunities in the business world and accordingly resigned his position as principal and entered the employ of the D. M. Osborne Harvesting Machine Company. He was placed in charge of their branch implement house at Salt Lake City and remained with them for five years, successfully managing their interests throughout Utah, Idaho and Montana. In 1882 he was appointed territorial treasurer of Utah by Governor Murray, but, as he was opposed to polygamy and was neither a member of the Mormon church nor in sympathy with that sect, the legislature, which was dominated by Mormons, refused to sanction his appointment. While living in Salt Lake City Mr. Nicholson acted as correspondent for a number of eastern newspapers and his descriptions of conditions in that part of the west were very interesting, accurate and instructive.

In 1885 he took up his residence in Lamoni, Iowa, and for three years was engaged in the hardware business but in 1888 he sold out at a good profit and in connection with Robert Winning, a capitalist of St. Joseph, Missouri, he organized the first bank in Lamoni, which was soon incorporated as the Lamoni State Bank. Mr. Nicholson was made cashier of the institution and was responsible for its early financial policy, which was one of progressiveness tempered with conservatism and which won the confidence of the community. He was accurately informed concerning local financial conditions and

this knowledge enabled him to make the institution of real service to the community and at the same time to safeguard the interests of its depositors and stockholders. Much of its present prosperity is due to Mr. Nicholson's wise management of its affairs during the early days of its history and the policy which he instituted has been followed ever since. He was also interested in real estate and bought and sold a great many farms in addition to laying off a large tract of land in half acre lots. He promoted several additions to Lamoni and at one time held title to a great deal of land in Decatur county. The last years of his life were spent in honorable retirement but he never ceased to take a great interest in the business and commercial development of his city, and his demise, which occurred in March, 1908, was sincerely mourned.

Mr. Nicholson was married on the 6th of March, 1878, to Miss Minnie Blair, a daughter of the late Elder William W. Blair, further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work. To this union were born the following children: Harry Carl, whose birth occurred in 1879, was graduated from Graceland College and also attended the State University of Iowa for three years. He is now the cashier of the Packers National Bank of South Omaha and is well known in financial circles of that section. He married Hilda Barrows, a daughter of Benjamin H. Barrows, of Omaha, and they have an adopted daughter, Mary Elizabeth. Todd Blair, born in 1883, received his education in the public and high schools of Lamoni and is now assistant cashier of the Farmers State Bank of this city. He married Velra Barr, a daughter of L. J. Barr, who has resided in Lamoni for many years, and to this union have been born three sons, Carl, Kenneth and Blair. Ray Kessler was born in 1886 and is now traveling for the Carpenter Paper Company which has its headquarters at Des Moines. Gracia, the only daughter, is an alumna of the Lamoni high school and is now taking post-graduate work there.

Mr. Nicholson was a republican and supported the candidates of that party from the time that age conferred upon him the right of franchise until his demise. He was elected to a number of local offices and discharged the duties devolving upon him with conscientiousness and ability. He was one of the first members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Lamoni and also belonged to the Modern Woodmen of America. He was reared in the Methodist church but in later life became a member of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints. He was always ready to do anything in his power to advance the cause of education and served as secretary of the board

of trustees of Graceland College of Lamoni. He was a successful financier and business man but never made the mistake of allowing commercialism to dominate his life, as he always found time to co-operate with the movements that sought the civic, intellectual and moral development of his community.

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### JESSE L. WION.

Jesse L. Wion, who owns and is successfully operating one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 9, Bloomington township, is a native of that township. His natal day was the 21st of March, 1873, and he is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wion, who now reside in Grand River township. To them have been born seven children, those aside from our subject being: George, of Grenada, Colorado; John F., who is operating the homestead; Mrs. C. E. McLaughlin, of Burrell township; Mrs. Fred Cash, of Grand River township; Lou, the wife of Allen Andrews, of Grand River township; and one who died in infancy.

Jesse L. Wion was reared upon the homestead and attended the public schools in the acquirement of an education. During his boyhood and youth he devoted much of his time to assisting his father with the work of the farm and since he was twenty-four years of age he has followed agricultural pursuits independently. About 1904 he purchased his present home farm of one hundred and twenty acres and has since made all of the improvements upon the place. It is now in excellent condition, the fields are inclosed by strong fences and the buildings are well designed and adequate for their purposes. He is up-to-date and energetic and derives a good financial return from his land.

In 1897 Mr. Wion married Miss Laura E. Payton, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Payton, now residents of Kellerton. She was born in Norton county, Kansas, on the 11th of January, 1880, and is one of eight children, seven of whom are living, the others being: Mrs. Charles Whittaker, of Simla, Colorado; Mrs. Chauncey Bogue, of Ogden, Utah; and A. I., H. A., L. L., and C. A., all of whom are operating the home farm in Bloomington township. Mrs. Wion was ten years of age when brought to this county and received the greater part of her education here. By her marriage she has become the mother of two sons: Henry Lester, who was born November 2, 1899; and Jesse Arthur, who was born September 4, 1902.

Mr. Wion is a republican and gives his loyal support to the principles and candidates of that party. Fraternally he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Kellerton and both he and his wife are members of the Rebekahs. They also belong to the Methodist Episcopal church of Kellerton and no worthy cause lacks their support and cooperation. Mr. Wion has spent his entire life in this county and the fact that those who have known him since earliest boyhood hold him in high esteem is proof of his uprightness and probity.

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### CHARLES W. DILLON.

Charles W. Dillon, who is engaged in general farming and stock-raising in Fayette township, owns one hundred and sixty acres in that township and he and his wife own one hundred and fifty-seven acres in Ringgold county. His birth occurred in Jackson county, Iowa, on the 18th of February, 1857, and he is a son of J. P. and Elizabeth (Larkey) Dillon, the latter of whom is still living in Fayette township, this county, at the age of eighty-eight years. The father died about eighteen years ago at Lamoni, where he took up his residence in the early '80s, some time before the town was founded. Previous to removing to this county he had resided for two years in Linn county, Iowa, and for five years in Illinois. He was a farmer by occupation and also devoted considerable time to missionary work for the Latter Day Saints church. He was liberal in his views and a friend to those needing help and encouragement. For these admirable traits his memory will be lasting in the community. To him and his wife were born six children, all of whom became residents of this county, those besides our subject being: Frank; Emory; James; Riley; and Ella, who is now Mrs. Barrett. Mrs. Dillon was previously married, her first husband being Otis Shumway, and they were the parents of two sons.

Charles W. Dillon was reared in Iowa and when about twelve years of age he put aside his textbooks and gave his undivided attention to agricultural pursuits, assisting his father for some time. In the spring of 1871 he came to Decatur county and in the fall of 1872 he went to Missouri, residing there for two years. At the end of that time he returned to Decatur county and subsequently purchased a grain business at Lamoni which he conducted for a year, after which he sold out to J. R. Smith. Later, in partnership with Wilson Hudson, he engaged in the mercantile business for a few months.



He then lived in Story county seven years, after which he removed to his present farm, on section 18, Fayette township, formerly known as the Millspaugh place. It comprises one hundred and sixty acres of excellent land; he and his wife also own one hundred and fifty-seven acres in Ringgold county. With the assistance of his sons he operates both tracts and is recognized as a successful farmer and stock-raiser.

Mr. Dillon was married at Sandwich, De Kalb county, Illinois, to Miss Ency C. Ewing, who was born and reared in that place. Her parents, George and Deborah (Parsons) Ewing, both passed away in Davis City, this county. A brother of Mrs. Dillon is a well known stonemason of Lamoni. Five of the six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Dillon survive, one having died in infancy. Martha is the wife of William T. Kaestner, of Des Moines. Roy E. is at home managing the farm. Emory W., who is residing in this county, married May Grace Hartshorn and they have a son and daughter. Zadie is studying vocal music in Des Moines. May Elizabeth is at home with her parents.

Mr. Dillon believes in the wisdom of the policies of the democratic party where national issues are concerned but often votes an independent ticket, believing the qualifications of a candidate to be of greater importance than his political affiliation. He, his wife and their children hold membership in the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints and their religious belief finds expression in the integrity of their daily lives. The material success which he has gained is well earned, being the natural result of his energy, industry and good management.

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### JAMES F. JONES.

James F. Jones, a registered pharmacist, has been connected with the Barrows Drug Store at Lamoni since 1900 and his services have been very satisfactory to all concerned. His birth occurred at Davis City, this county, in 1881 and he is a son of Frank and Elizabeth (Abbott) Jones. The father was born at Key West, Florida, and the mother was a native of New England but after the Civil war accompanied her parents to Illinois. Her father fought in the Union army as a member of a Vermont regiment. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jones located in Davis City in 1876 and the former, who was a contractor, had charge of the building of bridges along the Chicago,



Burlington & Quincy Railroad in this section of the state. He eventually took up his residence in the south. His wife died at Lamoni about 1900, in the faith of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints. To their union were born two children, the sister of our subject being Mrs. Esmah Jones, of Lamoni.

James F. Jones was reared in Decatur county and attended the schools of Lamoni in the acquirement of his education, being graduated with the class of 1898. Subsequently he took a course in pharmacy at Highland Park College under Professor Babcock and since 1900 has been connected with the Barrows Drug Store of Lamoni. He is a registered pharmacist and not only has an accurate knowledge of his profession but is also very painstaking and accurate in his work.

Mr. Jones was married, in 1905, to Miss Pearl Pitkin, a native of Linn county, Iowa, who accompanied her parents to Lamoni about thirteen years ago. They now reside in Fayette township and have many friends in this county. In religious faith they are Latter Day Saints. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have a son, Maxwell Warren, whose birth occurred in 1912.

Mr. Jones is a democrat and is now both township and city clerk. He has always given his time and thought freely for the advancement of his community and has discharged all of the duties devolving upon him with conscientiousness and efficiency. Fraternally he belongs to the Knights of Pythias and his wife is a member of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints. His expert technical knowledge, his good business sense and his courtesy have been strong factors in the growth of the Barrows Drug Store and in social, fraternal and political circles he is well known and highly respected.

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## JOHN CLARK.

Although more than a quarter of a century has elapsed since the death of John Clark, his memory is still enshrined in the hearts of those who knew him and the influence of his work is still potent. He was one of the earliest manufacturers of woolen goods in Iowa and was also connected with the development of the lumber industry in this state. For many years he resided in Decatur county and was prominently connected with its industrial and financial growth. His integrity and sense of justice were equally as well developed as his



JOHN CLARK



business sagacity and power of initiative, and his life was a force for righteousness.

John Clark was born in Paisley, near Glasgow, Scotland, on the 25th of September, 1813, and three years later was brought by his father, John Clark, to America. The family landed at Philadelphia and settled on a small river flowing into the Delaware, about ten miles from that city, where the father conducted a cotton factory. While living in Scotland he had been a silk weaver. In 1818 removal was made to Beaver county, Pennsylvania, and two years later he took his family and went to New Lisbon, Ohio, where both he and his wife spent their remaining days. She was a member of the royal family of Stuarts of Scotland, her father, Charles Edward Stuart, being the prince of Scotland and her grandfather the king of the united kingdom of England and Scotland. Her demise occurred when she was but forty-five years of age and her husband also died when comparatively young, being forty-eight years old at the time of his death. They left four sons and five daughters, all of whom are now deceased.

John Clark of this review resided in Columbiana county, Ohio, until the fall of 1846, when he removed to Jefferson county, Iowa, with his family and engaged in the wool-carding and cloth-dressing business in connection with the manufacture of lumber. This was the pioneer plant of its kind in Iowa and was farther west than any similar establishment. In 1843 Mr. Clark lost the entire mill property by fire but through the assistance of others his machinery was replaced and he was enabled to resume business. His mill cut the first plank for the first plank road in Iowa and its history forms a part of the industrial history of the state. In June, 1856, Mr. Clark removed to Decatur county and settled in Morgan township, purchasing a thousand acres of land from the government, half of which was timbered. He erected a sawmill upon his holdings and added two burrs for the manufacture of flour and also carding machinery, while two years later he installed spinning machinery and looms, manufacturing all kinds of woollen cloth. During the Civil war the demand for woollen goods was so great that twelve looms were kept busy and he handled not less than seventy-five thousand pounds of wool annually. In 1869 the First National Bank of Leon was organized with a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars and Mr. Clark was elected the first president of the institution, continuing in that position until it was reorganized as the Farmers & Traders Bank. In 1870 he, in connection with his son William, bought the mill property at Davis City and five years later he and his sons erected the flouring mill which is still in operation at that place. He had that astuteness of mind

which enabled him to recognize opportunities where others saw none and he also possessed the energy and aggressiveness to formulate and carry into execution plans for the utilization of such opportunities. These qualities made him a pioneer in the manufacture of cloth and lumber in Iowa and his connection with the industrial and financial development of Decatur county resulted in good to the community as well as in his own material prosperity.

Mr. Clark was married on the 25th of September, 1834, in Columbiana county, Ohio, to Miss Grace Gammill, who died September 21, 1835. To them was born a daughter, Elizabeth, now the widow of James F. Bolon, of Davis City. On the 21st of September, 1836, Mr. Clark married Miss Margaret C. Gammill, an older sister of his first wife, both of whom were daughters of James Gammill, a native of York county, Pennsylvania. To this union were born two sons and four daughters, of whom two survive, namely: William, a resident of Omaha; and Mrs. Caroline Biggs, of Leon. Mrs. Clark passed away upon her farm near Davis City in 1902.

Mr. Clark was a republican in his political belief but was never an aspirant for official honors. He never identified himself with any religious organization but realized that the work done by all the churches of a community is of great importance in promoting the moral welfare. He also saw the advantage of church unity and in 1878 erected a good church edifice which he presented to all of the religious societies of Davis City, representing two branches of the Methodist denomination and the Presbyterian and Christian churches. The building is still used by the three congregations and is known as the Union church.

At the time of his death the Decatur County Journal published the following: "Deceased died as he had lived, calm, placid and self-possessed, September 4, 1888, aged seventy-five years. Thus ended the life of John Clark, one of nature's noblemen, a model man and citizen, a noble and honored father, a loving and true husband, a friend whose friendship was like the light of the sun, true and steadfast in its course. The life of Mr. Clark furnishes an example to the youths of today of what may be accomplished by energy and continued labor, combined with the honest and noble resolution of benefiting his fellowmen with a portion of the material results of a successful life. Mr. Clark was fully aware of the seriousness of his last illness some time prior to his departure and made every arrangement for his burial. Also in talking over the matter with his children he stated: 'I know that my case is a critical one and that no physician can do me any good. I leave my case entirely in the hands of Providence and feel



perfectly resigned, let that be as it may, it's all right.' This well balanced and perfect consciousness was with him when he breathed his last, for, leaning back into the arms of his son James, surrounded by those he loved, he said to all: 'I am going—I will soon be gone.'"

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### THOMAS A. SUTHERLIN.

Thomas A. Sutherlin is one of the men of wealth of Decatur county, owning seventeen hundred and sixty-five acres of excellent land in Burrell township. He was born in that township, upon the farm on section 21, where he still lives, on the 20th of February, 1856, a son of Alfred and Henrietta (Nichols) Sutherlin, both born near Louisville, Kentucky. The father was taken by his parents to Indiana in an early day in the history of that state and remained there until 1854, when he removed to Decatur county, Iowa, and purchased the farm upon which our subject resides. He owned five hundred and eighty acres of excellent land, which he developed and cultivated until his demise in 1861, when still a young man. His widow subsequently remarried and removed to Missouri, whence in 1872 she returned to Decatur county, Iowa, where she passed away about three months later.

Thomas A. Sutherlin received a very limited scholastic education but attended school for a short time in Decatur county following his mother's demise. When still a boy he worked for others as a farm hand and was so engaged until he reached the age of twenty years. He then began operating sixty-five acres which he inherited from his father and as his resources increased he added to his holdings. He is now one of the most extensive landowners of Decatur county, holding title to seventeen hundred and sixty-five acres on sections 15, 16, 21, 22, 23 and 28, Burrell township. He has made many improvements upon his property and keeps everything in excellent condition. He farms individually about five hundred acres of land and rents the remainder. He gives his greatest attention to raising high grade stock and feeds about four carloads of cattle and four carloads of hogs annually, from the sale of which he receives a good profit. He also owns a number of business properties in Davis City and Decatur and was for about four years in the implement business in those cities.

Mr. Sutherlin was married on the 2d of June, 1878, to Miss Martha Farris, a daughter of James and Lucinda (Miller) Farris,

natives of Indiana and Ohio respectively. The father joined the Union army when a lad of but fourteen years and served from 1862 until the close of the war. Subsequently he removed to Iowa and engaged in the implement business in various parts of the state, eventually locating in Davis City, where he conducted an implement store for eight years. For some time before his death, which occurred on the 7th of April, 1915, he made his home with our subject. His wife died in 1878. Mr. and Mrs. Sutherlin have two children: Nellie G., who after her marriage to Calvin V. Githens went to Seattle, where she completed a four years modern language course at the University of Washington and who is now connected with the profession of music at San Francisco, California; and Luther W., who is a junior in the law department of the University of Washington at Seattle.

Mr. Sutherlin is a republican but has never been an aspirant for political honors as his business affairs have demanded his undivided attention. He is a thirty-second degree Mason and a canton Odd Fellow and is well known in local fraternal circles. His religious belief is that of the Methodist church and the teachings of that organization guide his life. He has much business ability and his success is due to his astuteness and good judgment, combined with his practical knowledge of farming and stock-raising. He values highly his material success but he prizes even more the goodwill and respect of his fellow citizens, which he has in full measure.

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### FRANK D. ORDWAY.

Frank D. Ordway, a venerable citizen of Davis City and an honored veteran of the Civil war, has been a resident of Decatur county for forty-six years and was long and successfully identified with general agricultural pursuits but since October, 1908, has lived retired. His birth occurred in Westville, Franklin county, New York, on the 24th of May, 1834, his parents being Hiram and Annie (Wheeler) Ordway, both of whom were natives of Vermont. The father followed farming in the state of New York for a good many years but in an early day removed to Illinois, where he was also engaged in agricultural pursuits for some time. Eventually he came to Decatur county, Iowa, here making his home with our subject until he passed away on the 2d of May, 1886, at the age of eighty-

four years. The demise of his wife occurred in Illinois on the 16th of October, 1861, when she had attained the age of sixty-two years.

Frank D. Ordway was reared and educated in the state of his nativity and remained on the home farm with his parents until seventeen years of age, when he made his way westward to Wisconsin, where he worked as a farm hand. In 1860, during the period of the gold craze, he went to Colorado but returned the following year and enlisted for service in the Union army as a member of Company F, First Nebraska Infantry, with which command he remained for four years, five months and twenty-two days. He made an excellent record as a brave and valiant soldier, never faltering in the performance of any task assigned him. When hostilities had ceased he returned to his father's home in Illinois and after following farming for a time was married and came to Iowa, settling in Pottawattamie county, where he purchased a tract of land. This he cultivated for but a brief period, however, after which he disposed of the property and removed to Red Oak, Montgomery county, Iowa. There his first crop was destroyed by the grasshoppers and he returned to Illinois. A year later, or in 1869, he came to Decatur county, Iowa, and purchased a tract of eighty acres on section 33, Burrell township, which he at once began improving and which he operated continuously and successfully until 1908. On the 2d of October of that year he sold the place to his son and bought a nice home and ten acres of ground in Davis City, where he has since lived in honorable retirement. His undertakings as an agriculturist were attended with a gratifying and well merited measure of success and he has long been numbered among the substantial and esteemed citizens of the community.

On the 6th of October, 1866, Mr. Ordway was united in marriage to Miss Amelia Lucia, daughter of Edward and Julia (Bombard) Lucia, who were natives of Canada and were of French descent. The father, a cooper by trade, removed to Illinois in 1849 and worked at his occupation in the Prairie state for a time, but subsequently purchased land in Kansas, carrying on agricultural pursuits there for a number of years. His last days were spent in retirement in the home of Mr. Ordway, his demise occurring on the 25th of December, 1907. For more than a half century he had survived his wife, who passed away in Illinois in the year 1856. To Mr. and Mrs. Ordway have been born six children, as follows: Hiram, who is engaged in farming in Nevada; Annie, who is the wife of A. D. Eaton, of Sandpoint, Idaho; Morton, an agriculturist of this county; Ingersoll; Josephine,

who passed away in 1887; and Daniel, whose demise occurred on the 6th of December, 1871.

In politics Mr. Ordway is a staunch republican, ever loyally supporting the men and measures of the party which was the defense of the Union during the dark days of the Civil war. He still maintains pleasant relations with the "boys in blue" as a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and has ever been as loyal to his country in days of peace as he was when he followed the stars and stripes on the battlefields of the south. He has now passed the eighty-first milestone on life's journey and his career has always been such that he can look back over the past without regret and forward to the future without fear.

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#### WARREN J. LATTA.

Warren J. Latta is conducting a blacksmith shop at Davis City and has built up a large business by excellent workmanship and fair dealing. He was born in Akron, Missouri, April 16, 1858, a son of Calvin and Rachel (Jenkins) Latta, natives respectively of Ohio and Pennsylvania. The father was taken to Indiana by his parents when that state was still a frontier region and there grew to manhood. He turned his attention to farming and after following agricultural pursuits in the Hoosier state for several years removed to Muscatine, Iowa, where he engaged in teaming for some time. About 1855 he went to Akron, Missouri, where he farmed until 1866, when he came to Decatur county and purchased land in New Buda township. His farm, which comprised three hundred and thirteen acres, was well improved, and he derived therefrom a gratifying annual income. He passed away in February, 1892, but was survived by his widow for four years.

Warren J. Latta was reared and educated in Missouri and New Buda township, this county, and continued to reside with his parents until they were called by death. He and four brothers farmed the place in partnership until 1905, when they divided the land, his share being eighty acres. From 1905 until 1914 he farmed independently but in March of the latter year he sold forty acres and removed to Davis City, where he established a blacksmith shop, the only smithy in the town. While still living upon the farm he had for fifteen years done blacksmithing and had gained a reputation for excellent work in that line. He has met with gratifying success since coming to Davis



City and derives a good income from his trade. He also owns a brick business building, two stories and basement, and holds title to his comfortable residence.

Mr. Latta was married on the 19th of March, 1890, to Miss Harriet Robbins, a daughter of John and Rachel (Davis) Robbins, natives respectively of Indiana and Ohio. The father, who was one of the pioneers of Decatur county, Iowa, bought land in Burrell township in an early day and gave the remainder of his life to the operation of his farm. He passed away in November, 1913, and his wife died in 1893. To Mr. and Mrs. Latta were born twelve children, five of whom died in infancy, the others being: Perry and James, who are in partnership with their father and who also conduct a garage and machine shop; Martha B., the wife of Clarence Vandall, who is operating land belonging to our subject; Maude, who married Otho Wishon, a resident of Harrison county, Missouri; Alice W., who is keeping house for her father; and Charles and George, who are attending school. Mrs. Latta passed away July 9, 1913, after a prolonged illness, and her demise was the occasion of much sincere grief, for she had many warm friends.

Mr. Latta is a democrat and has at all times performed his duties as a citizen conscientiously. While actively engaged in agricultural pursuits he was recognized as a successful farmer and stock-raiser and gave particular attention to breeding thoroughbred Percheron horses. Since his removal to Davis City he has won a place among the town's prosperous residents and is highly esteemed here.

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### ELDER LEONARD G. HOLLOWAY.

Elder Leonard G. Holloway, of Lamoni, is an active and successful worker in the Reorganized church of Latter Day Saints and belongs to the Quorum of the Seventy. He was born in Harrison county, Missouri, November 20, 1876, and is a son of Jasper M. and Nancy J. (Bowen) Holloway, both of whom are residing in that county. The father was born there on the 3d of March, 1853, a son of George W. and Elvira (Hinton) Holloway, who removed to Missouri from Kentucky in 1852, settling on land near Newcastle, Harrison county. George W. Holloway died in 1863. His father was John Holloway, who resided near Boonesboro, Kentucky. Representatives of the family served in the Continental army in the Revolutionary war, and the ancestry has been traced back to England.



Mrs. Elvira (Hinton) Holloway was a grand niece of Daniel Boone. The mother of our subject was born in Thorntown, Boone county, Indiana, December 15, 1852, and is a daughter of Uriah and Elizabeth (Moore) Bowen. Her father was born in Monongalia county, West Virginia, March 10, 1822, and died May 23, 1893, while her mother, who was a niece of Benjamin Franklin, was born in Kentucky on the 22d of July, 1830. The Bowens were Virginians but removed to Indiana in the early part of the nineteenth century. In 1852 Uriah S. Bowen went with his family to Harrison county, Missouri, and he spent the remainder of his life there. His widow is still living at the age of eighty-four years. Jasper M. Holloway was baptized in the church of Latter Day Saints on the 21st of April, 1883, and his wife was baptized the following year. They take an active part in the work of the church and are well known and highly esteemed in their community. He has followed agricultural pursuits and owns a large and well improved farm in Harrison county, Missouri. He has taken considerable interest in public affairs and has been called to office a number of times.

To him and his wife have been born six sons and two daughters, namely: Leonard G., of this review; Martha, the wife of Eugene Olmstead, of Harrison county, Missouri; Luella, who died in infancy; Orton H., a ranchman living near Akron, Colorado, who married Miss Estella Rubideau; John W., who is engaged in the garage business at Blythedale, Missouri, in company with his brother James A.; U. Scott, a farmer of Harrison county, Missouri, who has held a number of township offices, and who married Miss Ethel York; James A.; and Newton L., now living with his parents.

Leonard G Holloway was reared in Harrison county, Missouri, and received a good education in his boyhood and youth. He also early became familiar with agricultural pursuits and engaged in farming until he was about twenty-two years of age. He then worked at the carpenter's trade for about six years, but for the past ten years he has devoted his time to the work of the ministry of the Reorganized Church of the Latter Day Saints. He belongs to the Quorum of the Seventy and has traveled over Washington, Oregon, Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri. His preaching is very effective and he has been instrumental in building up the churches where he has labored. For a number of years he has resided in Lamoni and in 1913 he erected a fine residence there.

On the 17th of March, 1907, Elder Holloway was united in marriage to Miss Blanche Henderson, of Seattle, Washington. She

was born in Duluth, Minnesota, on the 6th of October, 1884, and is a daughter of John and Ada (Sperrin) Henderson, who removed to Seattle in 1900. Her father belongs to the Christian church and her mother to the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints. Previous to her marriage Mrs. Holloway was an expert stenographer. Mr. and Mrs. Holloway have three children, Esther I., Erlene M. and Grace E.

Elder Holloway is a democrat in his political belief and keeps thoroughly informed on the issues that come before the public for settlement at the polls. He combines religious zeal with practical efficiency and his work has been productive of much good. He has many friends in Lamoni and those who know him best esteem him most highly, which is incontrovertible proof of his sterling worth.

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### WILLIAM E. LEE.

Among the well known residents of Davis City is William E. Lee, who is manager of the Davis City Elevator Company. He was born in Bureau county, Illinois, of the marriage of John and Mary (Fassett) Lee. The father, who was born in Belmont county, Ohio, of American parentage, was a farmer by occupation and for a number of years cultivated land which he owned in Fayette township, Decatur county, where he arrived in 1868. Subsequently he sold that place and removed to New Buda township, buying a farm there upon which he lived for some time. During the last years of his life he resided on a farm in Burrell township, although his demise occurred at Lamoni, May 19, 1902. His wife was born in Bureau county, Illinois, where their marriage occurred. She is still living and resides at Perry. To their union were born six children: Edith, the deceased wife of Joseph Turner; Allie, the widow of W. W. Peasley and a resident of Indianola; William E.; Esther, who married Clarence Smith, now a resident of Lamoni; Maude, the wife of H. E. Perkins, of Perry; and a son who died in infancy.

William E. Lee remained at home until he was twenty years of age and attended the district school and the schools at Davis City. He assisted his father with the farm work until 1884, when he started out on his own account, going to Denver, Colorado, where for two years he drove a milk wagon. He was for some time a brakeman on the Rock Island & Pacific Railroad but in 1899 he returned to Decatur county and began farming on the ninety acre tract which he still

owns in New Buda township. He has proved very successful as a general farmer and stock-raiser but since 1903 has given his entire time to his work as manager of the local elevator. The elevator was for years owned by the Iowa & Missouri Grain Company but in the fall of 1912 it was purchased by a stock company composed of local capitalists and its name was changed to the Davis City Elevator Company. The present officials are: C. R. Rauch, president; William E. Lee, vice president and manager; and J. M. Gates, secretary and treasurer, while the board of directors is composed of the officers and Oscar Judd and F. W. Rauch. The company buys and sells hay, corn, wheat and oats. The elevator has a capacity of ten thousand bushels and handles about eighty carloads of grain annually. His work as manager leaves Mr. Lee no time for other interests and he therefore rents his farm.

He was married in 1895 to Miss Carrie Cartwright, a daughter of W. T. and Matilda (Boldman) Cartwright. To this union has been born the following children: John, whose birth occurred December 6, 1895, and who died when three years old; Ruth, born April 6, 1900, who is attending the Davis City high school; Naomi, who was born October 5, 1909, and is attending the district schools; and Marguerite, born May 13, 1911.

Mr. Lee is a democrat and since 1902 has served as treasurer of the township schools of New Buda. Fraternally he belongs to the Masonic blue lodge at Davis City, the Royal Arch chapter of Leon and the commandery of Leon, while his wife belongs to the Order of the Eastern Star at Davis City. In addition to his farm Mr. Lee owns some valuable city property in Denver, Colorado, and is one of the substantial residents of Davis City. His personal qualities are such that he has won the warm regard as well as the respect of those who have come in contact with him.

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### WILLIAM H. MILLS.

William H. Mills, an honored veteran of the Civil war and a retired farmer of Eden township, was born in Fulton county, Illinois, July 23, 1843, a son of J. D. and Matilda (Johnson) Mills, both natives of the state of New York, where their marriage occurred. In 1843 they removed to Illinois and there the father followed the blacksmith's trade until 1852, when he removed with his family to Decatur county, Iowa, settling at Pleasanton. In that same year,

while crossing Lake Erie, he witnessed a remarkable meteor shower, the meteors falling all around the ship. The first winter after arriving in this county the family resided on land belonging to a Mr. Scott near the old Horse mill, but the following spring the father established a blacksmith shop at Pleasanton, which he conducted until 1863. He then removed to Leon, where he passed his remaining years.

William H. Mills received his education in the public schools of Pleasanton, but in 1861, when eighteen years of age, enlisted in Company H, Fifth Kansas Volunteer cavalry for service in the Civil war, remaining at the front for three years, one month and eleven days. He took part in the battles of Helena, Arkansas; Tupelo, Mississippi; Pine Bluff and Mount Elba, Arkansas; Drywood, Missouri; and also fought in many skirmishes in Arkansas and Missouri, for a considerable period, being under fire almost every day. He was discharged at Leavenworth, Kansas, and then returned to Decatur county, devoting his attention to farming on section 9, Eden township. He purchased eighty acres on that section in 1865 and resided upon that place until his death. Later when his resources had increased he purchased an adjoining eighty acre tract, which he brought to a high state of cultivation. For many years he was actively engaged in general farming and stock-raising, but in 1914 turned the operation of the farm over to his son, feeling that he had accumulated more than a competence and that he had earned a period of rest from business cares.

In 1865 Mr. Mills married Miss Lovisa Blake, a daughter of Joseph and Margaret Blake, natives of England, who located in Coshocton county, Ohio, on their emigration to America. In 1854 they removed to Decatur county, Iowa, where the father followed agricultural pursuits and where both he and his wife resided until called by death. Mr. and Mrs. Mills became the parents of twelve children, as follows: Edith Llewellyn, who died in early womanhood; Henrietta, who remained at home; Zelia, now the wife of Albert Davis, who is farming in the state of Washington; Charles E., an agriculturist of Bloomington township, this county, who married Miss Effie Lindsay, of Davis City; Matilda, who gave her hand in marriage to Robert McKee, a rancher and orange grower of California; Frank, a rancher of the state of Washington, who married Miss Minnie McCune; Rolla O., who is a land agent of Tacoma, Washington; Oscar A., a rancher of Colorado; Clifton P., a farmer residing six miles east of Leon, who married Miss Nellie Gammill; Ralph E., who has taken the greater part of the responsibility for the opera-



tion of the home farm; Myrgie, at home; and Fred Leon, who died in infancy. The wife and mother died on the 31st of December, 1913, and her passing was sincerely mourned not only by her immediate family but by many loyal friends. She was a member of the Church of Christ of Eden township and her religious faith was exemplified in her daily life.

Mr. Mills gave his political allegiance to the republican party but never aspired to take a prominent part in public affairs. He, however, served as school director in his home district for a number of times and was greatly interested in everything relating to the progress of the schools of the county. He held membership in the Church of Christ of Eden township and the work of that organization profited by his cooperation and material support. Through his identification with the lodge of the Grand Army of the Republic at Leon he kept in touch with his comrades of the '60s and derived much satisfaction from the knowledge that in the time of his country's greatest need he did not fail her. While actively engaged in farming he was energetic and progressive and not only gained individual success but also contributed to the development of his county along agricultural lines. He died June 14, 1915, in the seventy-second year of his age.

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### JOHN L. LATTA.

Since July 1, 1911, John L. Latta has been engaged in business in Grand River as a dealer in hardware and furniture and as an undertaker and embalmer. For many years he followed the profession of teaching and gained an enviable reputation as an instructor. He was born in Akron, Harrison county, Missouri, six miles south of his present farm, on the 16th of October, 1864, a son of Calvin and Rachel (Jenkins) Latta. The Latta family is descended from French Huguenots, who fled from persecution in France to Ireland, whence in the seventeenth century William Latta emigrated to the United States, becoming one of William Penn's colony in Pennsylvania. Our subject's grandfather, Moses Latta, removed with his family to Indiana when his son Calvin, who was born in Ross county, Ohio, was but a small boy. They settled in what was then known as Dearborn county but which became Ross county on the subdivision of the former county. Moses Latta was a farmer and



stockman and passed away in Indiana when he had reached a ripe old age. There Calvin Latta grew to manhood and on the 19th of March, 1846, his marriage occurred. Not long afterward he and his bride removed to Muscatine county, Iowa, where they resided until 1856, when he sold out and they removed to Akron, Harrison county, Missouri. He preempted one hundred and sixty acres of swamp land and although he met with reverses he continued to reside there until 1866, when he came to Decatur county, Iowa, locating in district No. 3, New Buda township. He became the owner of three hundred acres of fine land and was very successful as a farmer and stock-raiser, being noted as a breeder of fine Belgian horses. He passed away February 4, 1892, when almost seventy-four years of age, his birth having occurred on the 12th of February, 1818. His wife was born near Germantown, Pennsylvania, on the 25th of August, 1824. When she was a small child her father died and she lost her mother when she was but eight years of age. She was reared in the home of a Presbyterian minister and was given excellent educational advantages. In her girlhood she removed to Indiana, where her marriage occurred. She passed away March 19, 1896, in the faith of the Presbyterian church, to which she had belonged for many years. She had seven children, five of whom survive, namely: Mary Ann, now Mrs. A. N. Willis, of this county; Moses, a retired farmer residing in Davis City; Warren J., a blacksmith of Davis City, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work; Stephen B., who is living on a farm in Eden township southeast of Leon; and John L. Two daughters, Martha and Margaret, died in infancy.

John L. Latta was reared under the parental roof and at the usual age entered the public schools. After completing his course in the Davis City high school he began teaching and for eighteen years followed that profession and continued his studies. After serving for a year as assistant principal of the Lamoni high school he was made principal of the West Side school at Lamoni. In the fall of 1896 he accepted the principalship of the school at Grand River, where he remained for three years. He was next principal of the Weldon schools, holding that office for a similar period of time. During these years he taught in the County Normal Institute. He had previously attended the Central Normal University at Humeston and there won the degree of Bachelor of Science. Not long after he was graduated from the school it was destroyed by fire. He felt that his work as a teacher would be benefited by further advanced study and in 1902 and 1903 he took a course at the Iowa State Teachers' College at Cedar Falls, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Didactics

from that institution. Following his graduation therefrom he taught at Sioux Center, Iowa, for a year and was then engaged in manufacturing in Independence, Missouri, for two years, or until August, 1906. In that year he became superintendent of schools at Tripoli, Bremer county, and on leaving that place became teacher of mathematics in the high school at Iowa Falls and served during the two succeeding years as principal of that school.

On the 1st of July, 1911, Mr. Latta entered business circles of Grand River as the owner of a hardware and furniture store and he has since gained a place in the ranks of the leading and most successful merchants of the town. He is also a licensed embalmer and undertaker, having completed a course in embalming at Des Moines and having since taken a post-graduate course therein. His stock and fixtures are worth about seven thousand dollars and as he carries a complete line of hardware and furniture and seeks to give his customers the greatest possible value and the best service that it is within his power to give his patronage has grown steadily. He also owns ninety acres of land in the southeastern part of New Buda township and derives therefrom a gratifying addition to his income.

On the 10th of October, 1897, in Lamoni, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Latta and Miss Esther C. Cooper, who was born in Plano, Illinois, in 1874, of the marriage of I. N. W. and Sarah (Skeen) Cooper, natives respectively of Ohio and of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They were married at Plano, Illinois, where they remained until they removed to Decatur county, Iowa, where they remained for three years and where a son, Daniel, was born. Following their return to Plano, Illinois, the mother passed away, her demise occurring in 1877. The following year Mr. Cooper married Miss Mell A. Skeen, a half-sister of his first wife, and in 1879 they located on a farm in Fayette township, this county, five miles southwest of Lamoni, where they continued to reside until 1890. In that year Mr. Cooper was accidentally injured and gave up the active work of the farm, removing to Lamoni, where he purchased a residence. He lived there for eight years and then removed to Independence, Missouri, where his death occurred in August, 1906, when he was sixty-three years old. In his early manhood he taught school in Plano, Illinois, and his wife followed that profession at Braddocks, that state. While living in this county he was for many years principal of the schools at Decatur City and was for several years treasurer and bookkeeper of the Herald Publishing Company. From the '60s until his demise he was a member of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints and served as an elder therein for a number of years.

To Mr. Cooper and his first wife were born five children: Mrs. Anna May Mather, of Independence, Missouri; R. T., a banker of Los Angeles, California, who is an elder in the church; Daniel P., a physician of Council Bluffs, Iowa; Mrs. Latta; and Mrs. Sarah J. Conway, of Colorado Springs, Colorado. To the second union were born two daughters: Mrs. Pauline Smith, of Kansas City, Missouri; and Ruth, who is residing at Independence, Missouri, with her widowed mother. Mrs. Latta was reared at Lamoni and after completing the course in the local high school taught the first and second primary grades in the Lamoni schools until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Latta have a daughter, Vivian Lucile, whose birth occurred January 14, 1902, and who is a freshman in the high school at Grand River.

Mr. Latta is an active democrat and is a leader of that party in this county. He was at one time his party's candidate for county clerk and his personal popularity was attested by the fact that he ran ahead of his ticket. While living in Bremer county he was a candidate for the office of county superintendent of schools but was defeated by the saloon element, which he fought in and out of season. Fraternally he belongs to the Masonic lodge at Grand River and both he and his wife hold membership in the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints at Independence, Missouri. Both are highly educated and refined and have gained a large circle of friends in Grand River. Mr. Latta finds that the conduct of his growing business makes heavy demands upon his time but he also recognizes his obligations as a citizen and never fails to cooperate in movements seeking the community welfare.

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### OREL P. ESTES.

Orel P. Estes is prominently identified with the business interests of Leon, having conducted a garage here for the past four years, under the firm style of Estes & Company. He is a native of Decatur county, his birth having occurred in Pleasanton in 1879. His father, J. N. Estes, was born in Tazewell, Tennessee, in 1850 and was only two years of age when brought to Pleasanton, Iowa, in 1852. For some years he was engaged in the harness and implement business there but in the spring of 1895 retired and is now living on a farm in Hamilton township. He was married in 1878 to Miss Rosa Bicknell, who was born in Galva, Illinois, in 1859 and came to Iowa in 1868 with her parents, Robert and Elvira Bicknell, the family locat-

ing in Pleasanton. To Mr. and Mrs. Estes were born one son and three daughters, the sisters of our subject being: Vee, the wife of Frank Farquhar, of Leon; and Olive and Loreta, still at home.

Orel P. Estes, the only son of the family, was reared under the parental roof and completed his education in the high school at Cainesville, Missouri. When starting out upon an independent career he engaged in the restaurant business at Pleasanton for a number of years but subsequently he conducted a grocery store in Leon. He disposed of the latter in 1914, having in the meantime opened a garage, of which he has now been proprietor for the past four years, and which now claims his entire time and attention. He is conducting business under the firm name of Estes & Company and he has one of the best equipped plants in Decatur county. He handles the Ford car exclusively but formerly had the agency for a number of other makes. He has built up a good business and in 1914 his sales numbered seventy-five new cars in addition to other cars he sold. He is just in his treatment of his patrons, never taking undue advantage in a business transaction, and all with whom he comes in contact have for him words of praise and commendation.

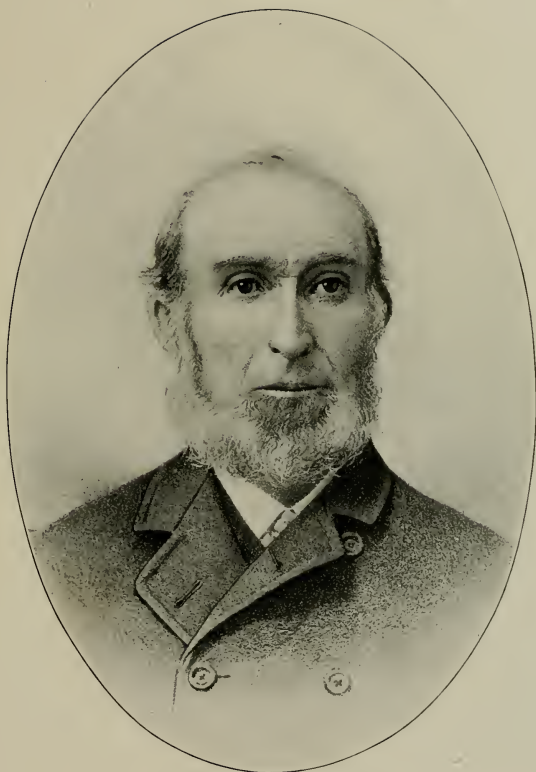
Mr. Estes was married to Miss Maud Walker, who was born near Milo, in Warren county, Iowa, and there lived until the time of her marriage. They have one daughter, Ferne. In his political views Mr. Estes is a democrat, and for the past seventeen years he has been identified with the Knights of Pythias lodge. Both he and his wife are well known in social circles of Leon and Mr. Estes is classed among the successful business men of this section of Decatur county.

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### ROYAL RICHARDSON.

Royal Richardson, who is living on his place of fifty-four acres within the city limits of Pleasanton, has reached the venerable age of eighty-eight years and still takes a keen interest in the affairs of his community. He was born on the 12th of February, 1827, in Massachusetts, a son of James and Sophia (Danforth) Richardson, likewise natives of the Bay state. The father farmed in Massachusetts during his active life but after he retired removed to Pleasanton, Iowa, making his home with our subject until his demise.

Royal Richardson received his education in Massachusetts and remained at home until he was fourteen years of age, when he left the parental roof and applied himself to learning the carpenter's



ROYAL RICHARDSON





trade. He followed that occupation in the east for ten years. In 1854 he removed to Batavia, Illinois, and two years later came to Pleasanton, Decatur county, Iowa, purchasing the fifty-four acres which is his present home. He also bought a sawmill, which he operated for ten years but eventually turned his attention to the mercantile business and conducted a store at the same time supervising his agricultural operations. Later he opened a hotel in the house where he still lives and which he erected in 1860, and for twenty-two years conducted that business, becoming well known and popular to the traveling public. In 1898 he organized a private bank but the cashier proved unworthy of trust and absconded with twenty thousand dollars belonging to our subject, who is now living retired, enjoying a period of well earned rest. He was United States marshal four years soon after the Civil war.

In April, 1851, Mr. Richardson married Miss Martha Johnson, a daughter of Jarus and Myra (Stone) Johnson, natives of Vermont, who resided for many years in Massachusetts, where the father followed agricultural pursuits. He passed away in 1828 but was survived by his widow until 1845. Mr. and Mrs. Richardson have no children of their own but have reared several, giving them parental love and care.

Mr. Richardson is a republican and for thirty years served as mayor of Pleasanton, his long continuance in that office being incontestable proof of the acceptability of his service. His religious faith is that of the Methodist church. He has resided in Pleasanton for almost sixty years and has seen the entire development of the town, as it had just been laid out when he arrived here in 1856. He has done much to promote its development along many lines and one of the greatest services which he has rendered Pleasanton was his efficient work in securing the building of the Burlington Railroad through the town. He is not only rich in years but also in the knowledge of worthy accomplishment and in the honor and warm regard of a host of friends.

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### THOMAS A. FULLERTON.

Thomas A. Fullerton, who owns eighty acres of fine land in Richland township and also holds title to one hundred and sixty acres in Nebraska, is a native of Muskingum county, Ohio, his birth occurring on the 18th of April, 1840. His father, Thomas Fullerton,

was born in Pennsylvania, March 23, 1813, of Irish parentage, and removed to Ohio at an early day in the history of that state. After following agricultural pursuits there for a number of years he came to Iowa, locating in Des Moines county, and three years later he made his way to Richland township, Decatur county, locating on section 1, where he entered one hundred and sixty acres of land. There he continued to follow agricultural pursuits successfully until his demise, which occurred April 19, 1898, when he was eighty-five years of age. He was a republican and held a number of local offices. Fraternally he belonged to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and while living in Ohio he was identified with the Covenanter church, although he became a member of the United Brethren church after removing to Iowa. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Eleanor Thompson, was born in the Buckeye state on the 24th of July, 1819, and died about 1873. They were the parents of ten children, five of whom survive, and three are residents of Iowa, namely, Thomas A., James and George.

Thomas A. Fullerton, who is the third in order of birth, was reared under the parental roof and received a limited education as the schools in this county were primitive in the early days and as much of his time was devoted to the work of the farm. On the 9th of December, 1861, he became a member of Company A, Seventeenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served at the front for almost four years, being discharged on the 15th of April, 1865. He participated in the battles at Corinth, Chattanooga and Iuka, took part in the siege of Vicksburg and was with Sherman on his famous march to the sea. Mr. Fullerton's regiment was captured in Georgia but as he was at the time on special detail he escaped imprisonment. He was mustered out at Davenport, Iowa, and immediately returned to his home in this county. He has devoted his life to agricultural pursuits and owns eighty acres of excellent and well improved land in Richland township, upon which he resides. He also has a farm in Nebraska.

Mr. Fullerton was married July 6, 1865, to Miss Armilda Jane Shipp, who was born in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, on the 12th of August, 1850. Her parents, John and Mary Shipp, in the '50s removed to Clarke county, Iowa, where the mother passed away. The father's demise occurred in Nebraska. They were the parents of five children, of whom Mrs. Fullerton is the eldest. By her marriage she has become the mother of fourteen children: Ulysses, who is living in Nebraska and has three children: Fidelia, who was born May 7, 1868, and is deceased; John, who has also passed away; William, who died in infancy; Mary O., the wife of John Wilson, a

farmer of Clarke county, by whom she has nine children; Blanche, who married Oscar West, of Clarke county, by whom she has eight children; Stella, the wife of Louis Greenland, of Richland township, and the mother of four children; Sarilda, the wife of Guy H. Williams, of Richland township, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Albert D., of Clarke county, who married Mabel Everett; Sylvia M., who is a nurse by profession and is residing at home; one who died unnamed; Jane M., the wife of Thomas Collins, of Richland township, by whom she has four children; Zora, who married Edward Carrier, of Clarke county, by whom she has two children; and Frank, at home. Mr. and Mrs. Fullerton have thirty grandchildren and one great-grandchild, the daughter of Mrs. Ethel Rhodes, who is a daughter of Mrs. Mary O. Wilson.

Mr. Fullerton is a republican and has always been a stalwart supporter of the measures and candidates of that party. Both he and his wife belong to the Christian church, to the work of which they have contributed generously of their means. He is one of the pioneers of this county and is deserving of honor for the work which he has done in developing a farm from the virgin prairie and in assisting in the progress and advancement of his community. In all relations of life he has conformed his conduct to high standards of morality, and his friends are many.

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### GEORGE C. HILL.

George C. Hill, who is successfully conducting a produce business in Davis City, was born in Washington county, Ohio, October 6, 1868, a son of McIntosh and Lavina (Johnson) Hill, natives respectively of Ohio and of Virginia. The father farmed in Ohio until 1886, when with his family he removed from Fayette county, that state, to Wayne county, Iowa, where he was identified with agricultural pursuits until 1903, when he removed to Hamilton township, Decatur county, and purchased land there which he cultivated until his demise in 1905. His wife died in 1910.

George C. Hill was reared and educated in Ohio and when eighteen years of age accompanied his parents to Iowa. He continued to reside at home until he attained his majority and then began farming on his own account, renting land in Wayne county for fifteen years. He then purchased a farm in that county, just over the line from Decatur county, and operated his place for three years. At the

end of that time he sold out and removed to Pleasanton, this county, where he conducted a butcher shop for one year. He next purchased land in Hamilton township, which he operated for one year, when he sold it and removed to Davis City, where he has since resided. He is engaged in the produce business, buying eggs, poultry and cream, and he has built up an extensive trade along that line. He still owns some farm land near Pleasanton and is quite well-to-do.

In January, 1890, Mr. Hill married Miss Viola Petty, a daughter of James and Phoebe J. (Breese) Petty, natives of Ohio and Indiana respectively. The father became a pioneer farmer of Wayne county, Iowa, and continued to follow agricultural pursuits until his demise in 1889. His wife survived for a number of years, dying in 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Hill have become the parents of twelve children, namely: Virgie, the wife of Bud Easton, a farmer of Hamilton township, by whom she has two children; Clell R., who is married and has three children; Norma; Stella; Lester; Beulah; Chloe; Hazel; George; Ocie, who died in August, 1894; Maggie, whose demise occurred on the 31st of December, 1906; and Floyd, who died January 31, 1907.

Mr. Hill is a republican and has served as justice of the peace at Pleasanton. Fraternally he is associated with the Masonic order and the Modern Woodmen of America, while his religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. His life has been lived in accordance with high standards of conduct and he merits and receives the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens.

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### JOSEPH FRANCIS HAGEN.

Joseph Francis Hagen, a well-to-do farmer and stock-raiser on section 14, New Buda township, and a native son of Decatur county, was born on a farm in Grand River township on the 14th of March, 1858, of the marriage of John and Eve (Asbach) Hagen. The father, who was born near Berlin, Germany, upon emigrating to America, first located in Grand River township, Decatur county, Iowa, but subsequently removed to Burrell township, where he bought land from the government. Later he conducted a general store in New Buda for ten years, although during his earlier life he was a farmer. He passed away in New Buda township in 1878, having survived his first wife for a decade, her demise occurring in 1868. She was also born in Germany and their marriage was cele-



brated in that country. Mr. Hagen chose for his second wife Mrs. Bertha (Lamb) Bicycle, who survived him for a number of years. He was quite successful and accumulated two hundred and seventy acres of valuable farm land. Of the six children born to his first union three survive, as follows: Joseph Francis; Adolph, who is living in Nebraska; and Latta, of Burrell township, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

Joseph F. Hagen was reared under the parental roof and received his education in the district schools. At the time of his father's demise he was appointed guardian for his brothers and sisters and discharged his duties in that connection ably and conscientiously. When the estate was settled he received seventy-two acres of land on section 14, New Buda township, and located upon his farm, where he is still residing. He has added to his holdings and now owns four hundred and thirty acres of land, one hundred and sixty acres of which is located in Chase county, Nebraska. He grows the usual cereals and also raises a large number of cattle and hogs annually, shipping to the Chicago and St. Joseph markets.

On the 12th of December, 1880, Mr. Hagen was married to Miss Mary A. Parkhurst, a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Susan (Hale) Parkhurst. Both parents were born in Indiana, the father of German and English ancestry and the mother of Irish and Dutch stock. Both removed to Wapello county, Iowa, in their youth and there their marriage occurred. After residing in Iowa for a number of years they removed to Illinois, where the father engaged in railroad construction work. He was injured by a piledriver and died from the effects of the injury in 1870. His widow subsequently married John Parker, who is now deceased. She is still living and makes her home at Pawnee, Missouri. There were no children of the second marriage and those of the first union were as follows: William, deceased; Sarah Louisa, the wife of David Bailey, of Des Moines; Mrs. Hagen; and a son who died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Hagen have six children living. Pearl, born September 12, 1881, married Ora La Point, a carpenter of Ottumwa, Iowa, and they have three children, Veta, Mary and Myron. Cora, born March 1, 1883, is the wife of Bert Fetty, a farmer of Harrison county, Missouri. Jacob L., born February 24, 1885, married Zona Toney, and is a farmer of New Buda township, and they have two children, Leota and Lucille. John F., born October 13, 1887, is a farmer of New Buda township. He married Nellie Dunbar, by whom he has three children, Francis, Garland and Doyle. Joseph C., born September 24, 1889, is a farmer of New Buda township. He married

Argyle Daniels and their children are Vera and Gerald. William Harold, born January 8, 1897, is at home. Ernest, born October 31, 1899, died September 9, 1901.

Mr. Hagen for several years voted the republican ticket but later supported the people's party and now votes independently, laying more stress upon the qualifications of the candidate than upon his party affiliation. He has taken quite an active part in local politics and served for nine years as trustee of New Buda township, for four years as township clerk, for twenty-three years as secretary of the township school board, which office he still holds, and for a number of years as school director in his home district. He was reared in the faith of the Catholic church but is not now a member of any church. Fraternally he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and the Yeomen of Davis City and has many friends both within and without those organizations. He devotes practically his entire time to farming and stock-raising and the gratifying success which he has won is well deserved. He is not only honest and upright in all of his dealings, but he also manifests a marked public spirit which leads him to support movements seeking the general welfare.

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### RAY A. HAMMER.

Ray A. Hammer, one of the leading young business men of Lamoni, is a member of the firm of the Radius Rod Company, exclusive distributors for the H. & M. Ford specialties, in which they have built up a large trade. He was born in Lamoni on the 28th of March, 1888, a son of Louis F. Hammer, an early settler of this city. The father was born in Mount Pleasant, Hardin county, Iowa, February 21, 1855, a son of Charles Jacob F. Hammer, whose birth occurred in Rumpus Housen, Germany. In his youth he crossed the ocean to America and first settled in Virginia, whence he removed to Linn county, Iowa, where he remained for a short time, after which he took up his residence in Hardin county, Iowa, about 1851. He was a weaver and dyer by trade but after locating in Iowa gave his attention to agricultural pursuits. He entered forty acres of land in this state and subsequently purchased a quarter section in Hardin county, where he resided until about two decades ago, when he removed to South Dakota, where he died in 1905 at the venerable age of ninety-two years. His father, who was at one time an officer in the Russian army, died at Lisbon, Linn county, Iowa, at the remark-

able old age of ninety-eight years. Charles Jacob F. Hammer was a member of the Lutheran church, while his wife adhered to the Catholic church. Her maiden name was Mary Ann Hinkle and she was born in Holland but died in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, in 1863. To their union were born seven children, of whom the second in order of birth died in infancy, the others being: Joseph, who passed away about twenty years ago; Charles, of Seattle, Washington; John, residing in South Dakota; Louis F.; Cornelius, of Creston, Iowa; and Mrs. Rose Tilton, of Logan, North Dakota.

Louis F. Hammer received his education in Hardin county, this state, but in 1877, when twenty-two years of age, he removed to Worth county, Missouri, where he engaged in the mercantile business for about seven years and where his marriage occurred. Upon leaving that place he located in Lamoni, Decatur county, Iowa, and followed the painting and carpentering trades, which he had learned in Hardin county, Iowa, and in Missouri. He became well known as an excellent workman and was very active in his lines of work for many years but is now living practically retired. He has resided in Lamoni for over three decades, having arrived here shortly after the town was founded, and he has always been willing to cooperate in movements seeking the community advancement. His wife was in her maidenhood Miss Sylvia Wilkinson, who was born in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, in 1860. Her parents resided in Illinois for some time, whence they removed to Worth county, Missouri, where both passed away. Her father was a farmer by occupation and met with a large measure of success in his business. Her mother was a native of New York. To Mr. and Mrs. Louis F. Hammer were born five children: Forrest, a postal clerk of Des Moines; Ray A., of this review; Herbert W., who is associated in business with his brother, Ray A.; and Veta Venore and Wanda Wave, both attending the local high school. Mr. Hammer is a democrat and fraternally belongs to the Modern Woodmen and Odd Fellows lodges at Lamoni. For a number of years he was extensively engaged in the poultry business at Lamoni in addition to his work as a carpenter and painter but has now disposed of his interests in that line.

Ray A. Hammer was reared in Lamoni and after completing his course in the public schools entered Graceland College, from which he was graduated with the class of 1908. He then entered the coal business and still owns a coal elevator, which is the only one in Lamoni and which is modernly equipped throughout. He is also associated with his brother, Herbert W. Hammer, under the name of the Hammer Remedy Company, in the manufacture of chicken medicines. The

concern was organized in 1914 and has already gained a gratifying measure of success. The greater part of Mr. Hammer's time and energies, however, is given to the management of the business of the Radius Rod Company of Lamoni. His partner is J. C. Danielson and since 1914, in which year the company was organized, they have built up a business of extensive proportions. They are exclusive distributors for the H. & M. Ford specialties, which include the H. & M. radiator support, the H. & M. truss rod, the H. & M. fender and running board brace and the H. & M. extra radius rod. As these specialties are designed in accordance with known principles of mechanics, are made of good materials and are reasonable in price there is every reason to believe that the volume of sales will steadily increase as they become more widely known.

Mr. Hammer married Miss Ruth Martin, a daughter of James H. Martin, of Bloomington township, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. They have one son, Max, who was born August 26, 1914. Mr. Hammer is a republican but has never had time to take an active part in politics, his business affairs demanding his undivided attention. He is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Lamoni and has many warm friends both within and without that organization. His wife holds membership in the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints. Mr. Hammer has manifested unusual initiative and aggressiveness and has gained signal success in the business world for one of his years. There has never been any question as to his integrity and probity and the fairness of his business dealings is a factor that makes for his continued prosperity.

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### IRA P. YOUNG.

Ira P. Young owns and operates one hundred and sixty-nine acres of excellent land in Richland township and is successfully engaged in farming and stock-raising. He was born upon that farm on the 28th of April, 1869, a son of Henry Harrison and Elizabeth (McConnell) Young. The father, whose birth occurred in Indiana, came to Decatur county with his parents, who are mentioned elsewhere in this work. When he grew to mature years he turned his attention to farming and successfully cultivated three hundred and thirty-three acres of fine land, including the farm which our subject now owns. He passed away on the 1st of September, 1887. His political belief



was that of the democratic party and his religious allegiance was given to the Baptist church. During the Civil war he served for three years in the Thirty-fourth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. His wife, who was also born in Indiana, removed to this county as a child with her parents, James and Melinda McConnell, who for many years resided in Richland township, where both passed away. Mrs. Young is a member of the Baptist church. To Mr. and Mrs. Young were born eleven children, one of whom passed away when only five years of age, while a son, Joseph, died June 6, 1914, when forty-three years of age. He held title to a part of the homestead. Those who survive are: R. G., of Grand River; Ira P.; W. H., of Hurley, South Dakota; Tursa Ann, the wife of B. F. Foland; Judah Ellen, the wife of Robert Snyder, of Grand River; S. J., of Athol, South Dakota; Minnie, who married Fred M. Bone, of Grand River; Dell, who married Harvey Hukill, who resides in Jackson county, Missouri, not far from Kansas City; and Chloe, a bookkeeper in the Ford plant at Detroit, Michigan.

Ira P. Young was reared in Richland township and has passed his entire life here save for five years which he spent in Dakota, where he engaged in the stock business. He is recognized as one of the efficient and energetic agriculturists of this county and the one hundred and sixty-nine acres which he owns is a well improved and well kept up farm. He grows the usual crops and also raises considerable stock and derives a gratifying profit from both branches of his business. He still owns a quarter section of land near Perkins, South Dakota.

On the 29th of January, 1893, Mr. Young married Miss Cora Miles, who was born in this county on the 30th of November, 1874, a daughter of Elias and Naomi (Hukill) Miles, natives respectively of Indiana and of Ohio. Her father is living retired at Lakeport, California, but her mother died in 1895, when forty-eight years of age. To their union were born six children: Mrs. Ella May Tabler, of Fullerton, Nebraska; Mrs. Young; Hiram E., an electrician of Des Moines, Iowa; Luther F., who was formerly engaged in mining but now owns a grocery store in Arkansas; Mrs. Martha Ann Mann, of Wagoner, Oklahoma; and Mrs. Orpha Pool, of Lakeport, California. Mr. and Mrs. Young have become the parents of five children: Gerata, who died in infancy; Vera, who married Thomas Cunningham, a blacksmith of Decatur; and Bernard, Clark and Luella, at home.

Mr. Young is a democrat and is zealous in working for the success of his party. He served in a number of local offices while living in



South Dakota and has always taken a keen interest in everything relating to the public welfare. Fraternally he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America at Grand River and his wife is identified with the Baptist church. Practically his entire life has been passed in this county and the fact that those who have known him intimately since boyhood hold him in high esteem proves beyond a doubt the uprightness of his character.

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### ORA E. BLACK.

Ora E. Black, who has spent practically his entire life in Decatur county and is widely recognized as one of its prosperous agriculturists and esteemed citizens, owns an excellent farm of two hundred and eighty acres on sections 15 and 22, Burrell township. His birth occurred in Mercer county, Illinois, on the 12th of June, 1868, his parents being Richard M. and Iowa (Thorton) Black, the former a native of Indiana and the latter of Rock Island county, Illinois. In the year 1853 Richard M. Black accompanied his parents on their removal to Illinois, in which state he was reared to manhood and followed farming until 1869, when he came to Decatur county, Iowa. He purchased and improved a tract of land in Burrell township and devoted his attention to its cultivation throughout the remainder of his life, passing away August 19, 1910. The period of his residence in the community covered more than four decades and he won an extensive circle of warm friends, so that his demise was the occasion of deep and widespread regret. His wife was called to her final rest April 12, 1902.

Ora E. Black, brought to this county when still in his first year, was here reared and educated and remained under the parental roof until almost twenty-four years of age, when he was married and established a home of his own. He bought an eighty-acre tract of land on section 15, Burrell township, and set to work to improve his property, subsequently extending its boundaries by additional purchase until it now embraces two hundred and eighty acres, two hundred acres thereof lying on section 22. In connection with the production of cereals he also devotes considerable attention to live-stock interests, feeding a carload of cattle and one of hogs annually. Both branches of his business yield him a gratifying income and he has long been numbered among the substantial and representative citizens of the community.

On the 6th of March, 1892, Mr. Black was united in marriage to Miss Libby Venn, a daughter of Benjamin F. and Eliza (Raich) Venn, both of whom were natives of New York. The father, an agriculturist by occupation, operated a farm in the Empire state until 1876, when he came to Decatur county, Iowa, here cultivating rented land for five years. On the expiration of that period he purchased property in Bloomington township and successfully operated the same until January, 1901, when he sold the place and removed to Nashville, Oklahoma, where he is now conducting a livery business. His wife passed away in February, 1890. Mr. and Mrs. Black have a daughter, Gladys A., who is nineteen years of age and is the wife of A. J. Elliott, who cultivates a part of her father's farm.

Mr. Black gives his political allegiance to the democracy and has served as township clerk for six years, making a most creditable record in that connection. His religious faith is that of the Baptist church. He enjoys a wide acquaintance in this county and has won uniform respect and goodwill by reason of a life which in all of its phases has been straightforward and honorable.

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### GEORGE R. FARQUHAR.

George R. Farquhar, who is proving an able and progressive mayor of Leon, Decatur county, has been for many years actively engaged in business in that county and has met with a fair measure of success. He was born on the 16th of February, 1862, at Garden Grove, Decatur county, of the marriage of Samuel and Mary (Marshall) Farquhar. The father, a native of Ireland, came to the United States when eighteen years of age and located in New York state, there apprenticing himself to the tinner's trade. After mastering it he went to Columbus, Ohio, and worked there for two or three years, later removing to Garden Grove, Decatur county, Iowa, where he followed his trade for about four years, after which he located in Leon and was one of the first tinner's in that city. He engaged in business on his own account and later added a fine line of hardware and sheet metal, becoming one of the most successful business men of the city. In 1887 he retired from active life and passed his remaining days in leisure and rest from toil. He was a member of the Leon town council and in that capacity voted for measures that he deemed would prove of benefit to the community. Fraternally he was a blue lodge and Royal Arch Mason. His demise occurred on the 4th of November,

1909, and there were many who felt that in his death they had sustained a personal loss. To him and his wife were born two children, Horace and George R.

The latter was educated in the common schools of Leon and in the high school, which he attended for some time. Upon putting aside his textbooks he became an apprentice to the tinner's trade and on completing his term continued in the employ of his father until 1887, when he and his brother, Horace, took over the business upon the retirement of their father. The firm name then became Farquhar Brothers, hardware, etc., and the concern gained an extensive patronage as it was known that a stock of goods of high quality was always on display and that the work done was thorough and reliable. As the years passed our subject's capital increased and in 1908 he retired from business life although he still retains an interest in the firm. In the spring of 1914 he was elected mayor on a non-partisan ticket and is now serving in that capacity, giving the same careful attention to the management of the affairs of the municipality that he gave to the direction of his business interests. His administration has been efficient and has advanced the interests of the community along several important lines of civic development.

Mr. Farquhar is well known in local fraternal circles as he is identified with both the Masonic blue lodge and the Knights of Pythias and in the latter organization has held all of the chairs. Throughout his life he has been characterized not only by energy and sound judgment but also by unswerving honesty and integrity, and he has not only won financial success but also the goodwill and respect of all who have been associated with him.

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### ISAAC GRENAWALT.

Isaac Grenawalt, who was for some time actively engaged in farming and stock-raising in Harrison county, Missouri, six and a half miles southwest of Lamoni, died on the 9th of November, 1890. He was born in Hardin county, Kentucky, December 20, 1817, a son of John and Rachel (Logston) Grenawalt, both natives of Germany. Many representatives of the family emigrated to America at the same time, but some of them settled in the east. Isaac Grenawalt was one of a family of eleven sons and three daughters. He was reared and educated in Kentucky and was married in Meade county, that state, on the 8th of July, 1847, to Miss Mary Ann Bunt. They resided

in the Blue Grass state until they removed to Jefferson county, Iowa, where they arrived in November, 1849. Mr. Grenawalt entered eighty acres of land there, which he cultivated for six years. In 1855 he sold out and removed to Harrison county, Missouri, where he entered one hundred and sixty acres from the government and later purchased a nearby eighty acres. Although his later years were given to agricultural pursuits, he was also a carpenter and in early manhood followed that trade.

His wife was born near Greensburg, Green county, Kentucky, November 9, 1828, and is a daughter of William and Eliza (Turner) Bunt, both Kentuckians by birth and of Scotch-Irish descent. They removed to Iowa in the fall of 1848, settling in Jefferson county, whence a few years later they went to Warren county, this state. After residing there for some time they removed to Harrison county, Missouri, where they lived for years, after which they took up their residence in Smith county, Kansas. There the father entered a quarter section of land, although past sixty years of age. After selling that property he removed to Gaylord, Kansas, where he died at the advanced age of ninety-six years. His widow spent her last days with her daughter Mrs. Grenawalt and died April 23, 1901, when she had almost reached the remarkable age of one hundred and one years. Mrs. Grenawalt has a sister living at Emporia, Kansas. Two of her brothers and two brothers-in-law all served in the Civil war and all were taken prisoners at Shiloh. One brother passed away in Arkansas in August, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Grenawalt became the parents of nine children, three of whom are living: Charles U.; Mrs. Mary Eliza Wilcoxson, who resides on a farm in Missouri; and Rachel Ann, the wife of Amos Coen, of Milan, Missouri, a retired minister of the Presbyterian church. The other members of the family were: William Henry, who died when two and a half years old; Rebecca E., who died when eleven months old; John L., who passed away upon his farm and who left a family; Mitchell, who died in New Mexico when he was twenty-three years old; Frank, who died at the age of seventeen years; and Joseph Elza, who died May 18, 1906, at Blythedale, Missouri, when forty-nine years of age. His body was buried at Eagleville, Missouri.

Mr. Grenawalt was a democrat but never felt any desire for political preferment, being content to perform his duties as a citizen in a private capacity. He began to provide for his own support when but sixteen years of age and the gratifying measure of material prosperity which he gained was due solely to his energy, progressiveness and good judgment. The principles which guided him in all of his



relations of life were those found in the teachings of the United Brethren church, with which his widow is also identified, having been a member thereof since 1853. She still owns the homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Harrison county, Missouri, and also eighty additional acres in that county. She spends part of her time upon the farm and part in Lamoni. She has gained many warm friends and all who have been brought into contact with her hold her in high esteem. She has in her possession a picture showing five generations of the family, including her mother, herself, her daughter-in-law, granddaughter and great-granddaughter.

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### EMERY DOBOZY.

Emery Dobozy was one of the pioneer settlers of Decatur county and was esteemed and respected by all those who came into contact with him. For a number of years he conducted a shoemaker's shop but during his later years he concentrated his attention upon farming. He was born April 10, 1827, at Deberzia, Austria-Hungary, and received his education in his native land. He grew to manhood there and in his youth learned the shoemaker's trade, which he followed for many years. He participated in the revolution in Hungary in 1848 and, having been taken prisoner, was held for a considerable period of time before he was able to effect his escape. He and Stephen Varga and Stephen Radnich emigrated to America, where they believed that they would find not only political freedom but also excellent business opportunities. They made their way to Decatur county, Iowa, and Mr. Dobozy settled in New Buda township, where for a time he worked as a hired hand. In September, 1861, he enlisted in Company D, Tenth Iowa Volunteer cavalry, as a private and served until the end of the Civil war. Although he saw much hard fighting and never faltered in the performance of his duty he was never wounded.

After being mustered out at the close of hostilities Mr. Dobozy returned to New Buda township and opened a shoemaker's shop in the town of New Buda. For several years he worked at his trade and as he was a skilled and expert workman people came to him from all parts of the county to have boots and shoes made. In 1876 he purchased a small farm in New Buda township and for some time divided his attention between shoemaking and farming. Eventually



he gave up his trade and devoted his energies solely to agricultural pursuits. He passed away upon the farm, on section 14, New Buda township, July 6, 1885, and his widow and children still live upon that place. Since his demise his sons have continued to operate the place and have added to the farm until it now comprises two hundred and fifteen acres of excellent land. They are energetic and progressive and are meeting with gratifying success in their work as farmers and stock-raisers. They raise high grade hogs and cattle and derive a good profit from that phase of their business.

On the 2d of September, 1867, occurred the marriage of Mr. Dobozy and Miss Maria Sanders, a daughter of Charles and Maria Sanders, both natives of Germany, where Mrs. Dobozy was born, December 25, 1848. In 1851 the family emigrated to America and located in Mitchell county, Iowa, whence they subsequently removed to Decatur county. The father was a farmer by occupation and both he and his wife died upon the home farm in Long Creek township.

Mr. and Mrs. Dobozy became the parents of nine children, as follows: Louis, who was born July 12, 1868, is at home with his mother. Frank, born April 5, 1870, is also living upon the homestead. He has served for two terms as assessor of New Buda township, for two terms as road supervisor and for one term as a member of the school board. Fraternally he belongs to the Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges of Davis City. Virginia, born May 12, 1872, married Louis Hines, a farmer now living in Mountain Park, Oklahoma. They have six children, Etta, Tisa, Emma, Bessie, Dot and Helen. Mary, born February 17, 1874, married Fred Hampton and now makes her home in New Buda township. She has three children, Stephen, Frank and Orpha. Elizabeth, born November 6, 1876, married Ed Repass, a farmer of Birmingham, Missouri, and they have five children, Maude, Daisy, Carl, Bird and Herman. Emma, born February 23, 1879, is the wife of Samuel Hamilton, a brakeman on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, now residing at Curtis, Nebraska. Their children are Norma and Garland. Catharine, born February 1, 1881, is at home with her mother. She holds membership in the Rebekah lodge of Davis City. Julia, whose birth occurred on the 8th of June, 1883, died on the 17th of September, 1913. Stephen Emery, born July 10, 1885, is at home. His fraternal allegiance is given to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Davis City.

Mr. Dobozy was a republican in politics but never desired to hold public office. However, he manifested much interest in the general welfare and cooperated in movements seeking the advancement of

his community. There was never any question as to his integrity and probity and he was one of the most highly respected of the earlier residents of New Buda township.

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### JAMES McGRAW.

James McGraw owns and operates two hundred and twenty acres of land adjoining the town of Westerville, Richland township, but resides in the village. A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he was born in 1855, a son of Patrick and Johanna (Genan) McGraw, both of whom were natives of Ireland. They grew to maturity in that country, were there married and there two of their children were born. After emigrating to America the father worked by the day on railroads in Pittsburgh until about 1865, when he removed with his family to Sangamon county, Illinois. There he followed agricultural pursuits until he went to Ringgold county, Iowa. He became the owner of a farm in the northeastern part of that county and continued to cultivate his land until his demise, which occurred in 1888 when he had reached an advanced age. He was a successful farmer and a public-spirited citizen. His political belief was that of the democratic party and both he and his wife were communicants of the Catholic church. She also lived to an old age. They were the parents of seven children, as follows: John, who lives in Fillmore county, Nebraska; Michael, a resident of Creston, Iowa, who owns a large amount of real estate in Ringgold county; Patrick, who is living in North Platte, Nebraska; Bridget, who is now Sister Amelia, a Sister of Charity of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; James, of this review; Thomas, who is living in Canada; and Martin, a resident of Des Moines.

James McGraw attended the public schools in the acquirement of an education. After growing to mature years he was for five years employed as a brakeman on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad and his brothers have also followed railroading. The greater part of his active life, however, has been devoted to agricultural pursuits. He was married in the '80s and thereafter began farming on his own account. The first farm which he owned was the old James McConnell place on Sand creek in Richland township, this county. On selling that property he purchased a farm farther northeast in that township but at length disposed of that place and bought his present farm of two hundred and twenty acres adjoining

Westerville. The land is in a high state of cultivation and the improvements are excellent. He carries on general farming and stock-raising and, as he is at once practical and progressive, his labors yield him a good financial return.

Mr. McGraw married Miss Mattie Grogan, who is a native of this county and is a daughter of Patrick and Frances Grogan. Her father is deceased but her mother is still living and makes her home in Ringgold county. They were early residents of this section of Iowa and performed well their part in the development of the region. To them were born seven children: Mrs. Michael O'Grady, of Ringgold county; Mrs. W. B. Trainor, of Grand River township, this county; Mrs. Michael McGraw, of Creston, Iowa; Bridget, who resides with her mother in Ringgold county; the wife of our subject; Dennis, of Ringgold county, who married Alta Hollenstein; and John, a farmer who resides with his mother and sister Bridget in Ringgold county. Mr. and Mrs. James McGraw have three children: Marie, Raymond and Gladys, all at home.

Mr. McGraw is a democrat and has served as school treasurer for fifteen years, proving very efficient in the discharge of his duties. He and his family belong to St. Mary's Catholic church of Grand River and do all in their power to promote the spread of its influence. His ability has gained him the respect of his fellow citizens and his admirable qualities of character have enabled him to win and retain many warm friends.

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### ELMER N. HEDLUND.

Elmer N. Hedlund, a progressive and enterprising young agriculturist of Decatur county, owns and operates a well improved farm embracing one hundred and twenty acres in Garden Grove township. His birth occurred in Mahaska county, Iowa, on the 26th of July, 1881, his parents being Andrew and Charlotta Hedlund, both of whom were natives of Sweden. The father emigrated to the United States when about thirty-seven years of age, locating first in St. Louis, Missouri, where he remained for a short time. He was by trade a master mechanic and constructed and superintended the building of bridges for the railroad. He is now a resident agriculturist of Mahaska county, Iowa, but his wife passed away on the 27th of December, 1910. To them were born seven children, as follows:

Mary, who is the wife of Jacob Seibert; William W.; Fred; Elmer N., of this review; Ellen; Charles; and Henry.

Elmer N. Hedlund acquired his education in the Pleasant Grove public school of Mahaska county and subsequently was engaged in farm work in his native county until the spring of 1914. He then came to Decatur county and purchased a tract of one hundred and twenty acres in Garden Grove township which he has cultivated to the present time. He produces the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and also devotes considerable attention to live stock, raising registered Duroc-Jersey hogs. The improvements on the property include a substantial residence and barn as well as good outbuildings, and the neat and thrifty appearance of the place bespeaks the careful supervision of a practical and progressive owner. The attractiveness of the farm is enhanced by an orchard of apple, peach, cherry and plum trees and there are also wells and windmills. Early in life Mr. Hedlund became familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist and this training, together with abundance of energy, has enabled him to win a place among the prosperous farmers of the county.

In 1903 Mr. Hedlund was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Bridges, a daughter of Edward and Margie (Linsley) Bridges. To them have been born four children, namely: Gladys, Hazel, Jay and Wayne. Mr. Hedlund is a young man of unquestioned integrity and unassailable reputation and enjoys the high esteem and friendship of those with whom he has come in contact.

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### HENRY WION.

Henry Wion, a farmer and stock-raiser, owning and operating one hundred and seventy-eight acres of land in Grand River township, where he resides, and also a two hundred acre tract in Bloomington township, has made his home in this county since 1854 and has therefore witnessed the greater part of its development from a pioneer region to the prosperous farming section that it is today. His birth occurred in Muskingum county, Ohio, on the 2d of July, 1844, and he is a son of John and Nancy (Sines) Wion, natives respectively of Virginia and of Maryland. They were married in Ohio, where they remained until the latter part of 1844, when they removed to Indiana. They resided for five years in Carroll county, that state, and for a similar length of time in Jasper county, Indiana, after



which they came to Iowa, locating in Bloomington township, Decatur county, in 1854. The father sold his farm about 1867 and removed to Daviess county, Missouri, where he died in 1873, at the age of sixty-six years, as he was born in 1807. They were the parents of nine children, of whom Henry is the second in order of birth. Four children are still living, the others being: John; Mrs. Kate Noftsgger; and Mrs. Eve Beck, of Portland, Oregon.

Henry Wion was but ten years of age when he accompanied his parents to this county and here he has since resided. During his boyhood and youth he gave much assistance to his father in the work of cultivating the fields and caring for the live-stock. In 1862, when eighteen years of age, he put aside all other considerations and enlisted in Company E, Thirty-fifth Missouri Infantry, serving with that command in the Civil war for two years and ten months. Of the nineteen men from Decatur county in his company but four returned and two of that number besides Mr. Wion are still living. The company was assigned to the Army of the West and at the battle of Helena on the 4th of July, 1863, Mr. Wion was struck by a piece of shell. He also sustained an injury to his ankle by slipping on a wharf-boat on which he was guard. He was incapacitated for service for some time but eventually recovered. After the close of the war he returned to Decatur county and has since devoted his energies to agricultural work. For many years he resided in Bloomington township, where he still owns two hundred acres of excellent land, and for six years he lived in Kellerton. Since January, 1913, however, the family home has been maintained on a farm of one hundred and seventy-eight acres in Grand River township. He has not only grown the usual crops but has also raised considerable stock each year and his labor has been rewarded by gratifying financial returns.

Mr. Wion was married on the 14th of July, 1867, to Miss Mary Elizabeth Lloyd, who was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, December 2, 1850, a daughter of Jesse and Elizabeth (Coates) Lloyd, the father probably a native of Virginia and the mother a native of West Virginia. Mr. Lloyd removed to Ohio in early life and resided there until 1854, when he removed with his family to Decatur county, Iowa, settling in Burrell township, about a mile south of Decatur City. There both he and his wife passed away. He was a Baptist in religious faith and she was a member of the Presbyterian church. They were the parents of eight children, namely: Mrs. Wion; George, of Grand River; Dr. Josiah, who is residing in South Dakota; John, also a resident of that state; Mrs. Nancy Bedell, of Decatur City; Mrs. Annie Noble, also of Decatur City; Mrs. Rose Noble, who is



living near Grand River; and William, a merchant of Decatur City. Mr. and Mrs. Wion both grew to maturity in this county and their married life has covered almost a half century. They have six children, namely: George, who is residing in Colorado; Jesse, of this county; Rose, the wife of Charles McLaughlin, of Burrell township; Mrs. Clara Cash, of Grand River township; Mrs. Luella Andrew, also of that township; and John, who is operating his father's farm in Bloomington township.

Mr. Wion is a stalwart democrat and for several terms held the position of trustee of Bloomington township. He belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge at Decatur City and both he and his wife are members of the Protestant Methodist church, to the support of which they contribute liberally. Mr. Wion is one of the oldest residents of this county in point of the years that he has lived here and his accounts of early conditions and happenings are not only of much interest but also of value as the present generation finds it hard to understand the lives of the pioneers and to realize the many hardships that had to be endured. Mr. Wion has at all times taken a public-spirited interest in community affairs and has done all in his power to further the development of his county.

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### JAMES M. DEEMER.

Among the well known farmers of Burrell township is James M. Deemer, whose birth occurred in Ohio on the 3d of March, 1850. His parents, Joseph and Rachel (Dean) Deemer, were both born in Pennsylvania. In 1857 the father, who was a farmer by occupation, removed with his family from Ohio to Greene county, Iowa, and continued to follow agricultural pursuits there until his demise in 1863. His wife survived for eighteen years, dying in 1881.

James M. Deemer was reared and educated in Greene county, this state, and resided with his mother until he attained his majority. He then rented land which he operated for a number of years, after which he went to Oregon, where he engaged in farming for four years. He returned to Iowa and followed agricultural pursuits here for a like period of time, after which he went to Wright county, Missouri, and bought three hundred and twenty acres of land, which he operated and improved for four years. At the end of that time he sold his property and took up his residence in Johnson county, Missouri, where he purchased land which he cultivated for two years.

On disposing of that property he removed to Union county, Iowa, where he resided until 1900. In that year he came to Decatur county, Iowa, and bought one hundred and twenty acres on section 9, Burrell township, to the operation and development of which he devoted twelve years. He then rented that place to his son and purchased forty-two and a half acres on section 15, Burrell township, on which he is now living and which he is engaged in cultivating. He has gained a competence by his labor as an agriculturist and is allowing himself more leisure time than in former years.

The marriage of Mr. Deemer and Miss Sarah E. Taylor was celebrated in March, 1876. Her parents, Henry and Emily (Van Horn) Taylor, were born respectively in Illinois and Indiana and in an early day the father located in Greene county, Iowa, where both he and his wife were residing when called to their last reward. His demise occurred in 1862 and she passed away in 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Deemer have become the parents of five children: Clara, the wife of Bert Stoner, an agriculturist of Union county, Iowa; Fred, who is farming in Page county, this state; Charles, who resides near St. Charles, in Madison county, this state, and who is a farmer by occupation; Joseph H., who is cultivating seventy-seven and a half acres of land adjoining his father's farm; and William, who is operating his father's farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 9, Burrell township.

Mr. Deemer is a republican and has loyally supported the candidates and policies of that party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He has resided in Decatur county for fifteen years and in that time has made many friends, as he is a man of pleasing personality and sterling worth. The success which he has won as an agriculturist is fully deserved as it is the reward of well directed industry and enterprise.

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### SAMUEL SHAKESPEARE.

Samuel Shakespeare, who is one of the well-to-do and enterprising farmers of Hamilton township, was born in England. December 21, 1856. His parents, William and Sarah (Marsh) Shakespeare, were likewise natives of that country. In 1859 they emigrated with their family to America and located at Galesburg, Illinois. The father, who was a coal operator, owned and operated the first coal mines in the vicinity of Kewanee, Illinois, and was engaged in

that line of business until his demise, which occurred October 24, 1864. His widow survived for a half century, dying in October, 1914.

Samuel Shakespeare was largely reared and educated in Kewanee but in 1870 accompanied his mother and stepfather, James Robinson, to Geneseo, Illinois, the family home being established upon a farm in that locality. In 1874 removal was made to a farm near Chariton, Lucas county, and there the family resided until 1879, when they took up their abode in Lucas. Our subject was employed in the mines there and also conducted an undertaking business in partnership with his stepfather until 1885, when he entered the employ of the Great Western Railroad, working on the construction of the road. At the same time he gave considerable attention to agricultural pursuits and in December, 1891, he removed with his family to Decatur county, Iowa. For eleven years he rented land but at the end of that time purchased a farm which he operated for about nine years. He then sold that place and bought fifty-three acres inside the city limits of Lamoni and gave his time to the cultivation of that tract of land until the spring of 1915. He then sold that property and purchased two hundred and eighty-seven acres on sections 22 and 23, Hamilton township. He intends to erect modern buildings upon the place and to make other improvements. He is specializing in the raising of Hereford cattle and Poland China hogs and ranks among the efficient and successful stock-raisers and farmers of the county.

On the 6th of October, 1881, Mr. Shakespeare married Miss Hannah Willets, a daughter of Edward and Selena (Marsh) Willets, natives of England, who in 1864 located in Kewanee, Illinois, where the father became a coal miner. While living in England, however, he followed the baker's trade and also engaged in manufacturing horseshoe nails. His wife died on the 15th of May, 1914, when eighty-three years of age, after a very happy married life of sixty-five years. He is now eighty-three years of age and is living with our subject, with whom he has made his home for a quarter of a century. Mr. and Mrs. Willets became the parents of twelve children, two of whom died in infancy, the other ten growing to maturity and rearing families. Nine children survive. To Mr. and Mrs. Shakespeare have been born five children, namely: William E., a resident of Fargo, North Dakota; Ethel G., the wife of John C. May, a missionary of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints, who was stationed for six years in the Society Islands, but is now residing at Independence, Missouri; Mary A. and Harry A., both at home; and James A., who met death by drowning near Lamoni on the 26th of August, 1905.

Mr. Shakespeare is a republican and has served as president of the school board of Fayette township for several years. His religious faith is that of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints and he is a teacher in that church. He has been very successful in gaining financial prosperity and has also found time to devote to the advancement of the educational, moral and civic interests of the community and his integrity and public spirit have commended him to the esteem of his fellow citizens.

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### MARTIN E. MANNASMITH.

Since 1882 Martin E. Mannasmith has operated a finely improved farm on section 7, Bloomington township, and he is recognized as an able and successful agriculturist. He was born in Marion county, Ohio, January 3, 1850, a son of Peter and Julia Ann (Denman) Mannasmith, the former a native of Pennsylvania. They were married in Ohio and the family continued to reside there until 1860, when they with three other families came by wagon to Decatur county, Iowa. The father followed agricultural pursuits until his demise, which occurred about eighteen years ago when he was sixty-seven years old. He was a democrat in his political belief and took a commendable interest in public affairs. His wife died in Ohio in 1854, leaving four sons, Martin E., James, John and Isaac, all of whom are living, but only our subject resides in this county. The father was again married, his second wife being Miss Susan McLaughlin, whose family is mentioned elsewhere in this work. She died a year or two before her husband. To them were born five children, four daughters and one son, of whom two daughters are living.

Martin E. Mannasmith continued his education for a short time after his removal to Decatur county with the family in 1860, but since he was twelve years of age he has been dependent upon his own resources and has worked diligently and indefatigably. He has devoted his life to agricultural pursuits and on the 8th of March, 1882, removed to his present farm on section 7, Bloomington township. The place formerly comprised one hundred and sixty acres, but he has now disposed of eighty acres thereof. He operates the remaining eighty acres and is very successful as a farmer and stock-raiser, as he is energetic and progressive.

Mr. Mannasmith was married in this county on the 29th of December, 1874, to Miss Sarah May, who was born near Davis City in New



Buda township, on the 4th of June, 1857, and is a daughter of John and Clarissa (Jordan) May, who settled in Decatur county early in the '50s. They were the parents of nine children, but only Mrs. Mannasmith is now living. She attended the common schools and remained at home until her marriage. Her parents were devout Methodists and reared their children in the Christian faith, making it a practice to conduct family worship. Mr. and Mrs. Mannasmith have three children, Dena May, who was born December 5, 1875, is the wife of John Burke, a farmer of Ringgold county. John Alexander was born February 28, 1878, and was married in January, 1913, to Miss Eula Shacklett. He is the carrier on rural route No. 3 from Kellerton and resides in that city. Clarence Alfred was born December 24, 1879, and is assistant cashier of the Ringgold County Bank of Kellerton.

Mr. Mannasmith is a democrat and has held a number of local offices, discharging his duties with capability and conscientiousness. He belongs to lodge No. 425, I. O. O. F., at Kellerton, and has many friends throughout the county, who esteem him highly for his sterling worth. The success that he has gained is doubly creditable in that he began his business career without capital and without the aid of influential friends.

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#### W. R. WEST, D. D. S.

Although Dr. W. R. West has been engaged in the practice of dentistry in Leon for but a few brief years, he has already gained a good clientage and deserves to be classed among the successful professional men of Decatur county. He was born in this county, upon a farm in Long Creek township, in 1886, a son of I. W. and Florence (McKee) West, who now reside near Leon on a farm, whereon they took up their abode in 1915. The father is likewise a native of Long Creek township, his birth having occurred on the home farm in July, 1862. Being reared to agricultural pursuits he has always followed that occupation and is also interested in the stone and sand business, these two products being found upon his farm. Mrs. West was also born in Decatur county, near Grand River, and was one of the prominent teachers of the county for several years prior to her marriage which occurred March 18, 1885. For many years Mr. West was identified with farming interests in Long Creek township but in 1915 took up his abode upon a finely improved tract of land near Leon.



His family numbers two sons and a daughter: W. R., of this review; Virginia, who is a trained nurse, located in Chicago; and Clifton A., who is attending high school at Leon.

Dr. West spent the period of his boyhood and youth upon the home farm and assisted his father in the work of the fields and care of the stock from an early age. He acquired his elementary education in the public schools and also completed a general course of instruction in Iowa City Academy at Iowa City in 1908. After reaching mature years he decided that a professional career would prove more congenial to him than life upon the farm, and accordingly he entered upon a course of study in the dental department of the State University of Iowa, being graduated with the class of 1911. In July of that year he fitted up a suite of rooms in the Biggs building on Main street, Leon, and began the practice of his profession, which has grown as the years have gone by until he now has a large clientage, which is increasing very steadily.

Dr. West chose as a companion and helpmate for the journey of life, Miss Lucette Edith Wilkinson, of Iowa City, who is also a graduate of Iowa City Academy and has taken considerable work in the colleges of Liberal Arts and Music at the State University of Iowa. They now have a little daughter, Edith Virginia.

The Doctor's study of the political questions and issues has caused him to give support to the republican party. He is identified with the Masonic order, belonging to the blue lodge, chapter and commandery, while both he and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star. He keeps in close touch with the advance that is being made in the dental profession through his connection with the National, State, District and County Dental Associations. Dr. and Mrs. West are popular young people and have a wide circle of warm friends, to whom the hospitality of their pleasant home is cordially extended.

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### WILLIAM A. MACHLAN.

Two hundred acres of excellent land on section 18, Franklin township, pays tribute to its owner, William A. Machlan, and the excellent condition in which everything about the place is kept is testimony to his energy and good management. He was born in Rush county, Indiana, June 30, 1854, a son of George W. and Elizabeth (Mann) Machlan, both of whom were of Scotch descent. The pater-

nal great-grandfather emigrated to America from Scotland. George W. Machlan became a resident of Decatur county in the early days when much of the land was still in the possession of the government and entered his homestead. He followed general agricultural pursuits and also gave considerable attention to stock-raising and, moreover, worked at the carpenter's trade to some extent. He passed away in Linn, Iowa, in 1912, when eighty years of age. His wife died in December, 1906, when seventy-two years of age. They were the parents of five children, namely: William A.; Homer, a resident of Des Moines; Newton, who is living in Milo; Mrs. Edna Thompson, of Leon; and Mrs. Bertha Britt, of Davis City.

William A. Machlan received the advantages of a good common-school education and during his boyhood and youth also assisted in the work of the farm. Upon reaching mature years he decided to devote his life to agricultural pursuits and has never had occasion to regret his choice of an occupation. He owns two hundred acres of excellent land in Franklin township, upon which he has resided for the past thirty-five years. All of the buildings upon the place are well adapted to their purposes and are in good condition and the fertility of the soil has been carefully conserved. He is successfully engaged in general farming and stock-raising. The financial independence which he has gained is especially creditable as he began his career without capital or the aid of influential friends. He taught school for a time to provide himself with the capital necessary in securing a start as a farmer and the first land which he purchased was an eighty acre tract. From time to time as his resources increased he bought additional land and is now one of the substantial residents of his township.

On the 7th of September, 1879, Mr. Machlan married Miss Ella Moore, of Decatur county, a daughter of John and Eliza (Pace) Moore. Her father, who was a farmer and blacksmith by occupation, died many years ago but her mother survived for forty years. They were the parents of eight daughters and three sons. To Mr. and Mrs. Machlan have been born ten children: Perry Lester, who was born August 19, 1880, and who is a government inspector in the Philippine islands; Grace, born October 27, 1881, who is the wife of S. C. Jennings, a farmer of this county, by whom she has three sons; Laura, who was born March 6, 1883, and who married William Clay, a planter residing in Texas; George W., born September 22, 1884, who is a farmer and resides in Nebraska; Ora, born March 8, 1887, who married Frank Cronin, of this county, by whom she has four children; Amy, born March 27, 1889, who married Clarence Smith, of

North Platte, Nebraska, by whom she has three children; Ethel, who was born May 8, 1891, and who married Gale Arnold, a farmer of Lucas county, Iowa; Howard, born December 12, 1893, who is now aiding in the work of the home farm; William R., born April 26, 1897, also assisting with the farm work; and Pauline, born April 29, 1902. Five of the children have taught in the local schools and previous to her marriage Mrs. Machlan followed the profession of teaching.

The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and not only contribute to its support but also take an active part in its work. Mr. Machlan is a republican but has never desired to hold office although he has always taken a keen interest in public affairs. During the thirty-five years that he has lived upon his present farm he has won the complete confidence and sincere respect of the residents of his township and indeed is well known and highly esteemed throughout the county.

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### LEWIS HOLT.

Having passed the seventy-ninth milestone on life's journey, Lewis Holt is living largely retired in Van Wert, where he has made his home for a number of years. He was one of the leading carpenters and builders of his part of the county for many years and erected the greater number of the houses in Van Wert. He was born in Ohio, April 22, 1836, and is a son of John M. and Rachel A. (Black) Holt, both natives of New York. The father, who was by trade a carpenter, removed to Crawford county, Ohio, with his family and there worked at his trade until his demise, which occurred in 1846. His widow subsequently married his brother and in 1866 they removed to Decatur county, Iowa, where both resided until called by death.

Lewis Holt was reared in Ohio and attended the public schools of Monroeville, that state, in the acquirement of his education. He afterward taught school in the Buckeye state and remained there until 1859, when he emigrated westward, settling in Decatur county, Iowa. He continued to follow the profession of teaching for two years after removing here and some of his pupils are living in the county today and have great-grandchildren. After devoting two years to educational work he began following the carpenter's trade, which he had learned in Ohio. At the time of the Civil war he was drafted and went to Des Moines, where he enrolled as a member of Company A, Sixteenth Iowa Infantry. He was at the front for

several months and was with Sherman on the memorable march to the sea. When peace was restored he returned to this county and for many years followed his trade, gaining an enviable reputation for his expert workmanship and honorable business methods. He erected most of the buildings in Van Wert, including the school-house, which is still standing. Eventually he purchased land in Long Creek township, one mile north of Van Wert, to the improvement and operation of which he devoted several years. However, when his sons reached maturity he turned the work of the farm over to them and took up his abode in Van Wert, where he has since lived. He erected his own residence, doing all of the work unaided.

Mr. Holt was married, in Ohio, in the spring of 1859, to Miss Rosanna E. Brown. Her parents were pioneers of the Buckeye state and her father passed away there but her mother died in this county. Mrs. Holt was called to her reward on the 5th of May, 1909. She was the mother of nine children, as follows: Charles E.; Wallace; Janet P.; Edwin; Nellie; Jessie T.; and three who died in infancy.

Mr. Holt is a republican and has held a number of local offices, serving as justice of the peace, as assessor, as a member of the town council and as mayor. He has at all times proved worthy of the trust and confidence reposed in him and has discharged his duties with ability and conscientiousness. Fraternally he is identified with the Masonic order and he also belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic. His wife was a devout member of the Freewill Baptist church. He is much interested in everything relating to the general welfare and can be depended upon to promote worthy causes. His life has been a busy and useful one and the structures which he has erected stand as monuments to his skill and his habit of doing all that his hand finds to do to the best of his ability.

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### JAMES G. McBROOM.

James G. McBroom is a prominent farmer and stock-raiser of Garden Grove township and gives special attention to the breeding of full-blooded Jersey cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. His birth occurred December 19, 1852, on the farm on which he resided until 1913, and he is a son of Robert and Susanna (Winters) McBroom. The maternal grandfather, Daniel Winters, removed to Decatur county from Ohio and was a well known pioneer Baptist preacher



who held services in the homes of the settlers before a church edifice was erected. He also farmed and thus provided for his support, as the early ministers received very small salaries. He lived on Gospel Ridge, which received its name from the fact that he was a minister. When about seventy-five years of age he removed to Wayne county and passed away there when eighty-one years old. Robert McBroom was born in Hocking county, Ohio, but in 1850 removed to Decatur county, Iowa, and entered one hundred and sixty acres in Garden Grove township from the government, paying a dollar and a quarter per acre. Later he purchased a similar tract paying therefor two dollars and a half per acre. He followed farming and stock-raising during his active life and won a gratifying measure of success. He is now residing at Bozeman, Montana, with a son and has reached the advanced age of ninety-one years. He is a democrat and has always taken much interest in public affairs. As he has been an omnivorous reader and is a man of keen intelligence, he is well informed on all matters of general interest. His wife died June 20, 1900, when almost sixty-six years of age, as her birth occurred November 7, 1834. Although reared in the Baptist church, she later became a member of the Methodist church. To their union were born three sons and four daughters, who survive, but our subject, who is the eldest, is the only one still living in Decatur county. The others are residing in Kansas, South Dakota, Montana and Canada.

James G. McBroom has resided practically his entire life in Decatur county and here acquired his education. In his boyhood he began to assist his father with the work of the farm and since beginning his independent career has continued to follow the occupation to which he was reared. He has been very successful and now owns five hundred acres in a body in Garden Grove township, including the old homestead, and also holds title to three hundred and twenty acres in Alberta, Canada, which is fenced and improved. His farm in this county has two sets of good improvements and he cultivates the greater part of the land himself, although he leases part of his holdings to a son.

In 1886 Mr. McBroom was married in Chariton, Iowa, to Miss Lou E. Harp, who was born in Missouri but who in her childhood accompanied her parents first to Mason City, Illinois, and later to Lucas county, Iowa. For over forty years her father, George W. Harp, has resided in Iowa and he is now living on a farm in Lucas county. Her mother, who bore the maiden name of Annie Updyke, is deceased. Mrs. McBroom, who is one of a family of five daughters, grew to womanhood in Lucas county. By her marriage she has ten



living children, all natives of Decatur county, namely: Curtis; Glenn, who operates land belonging to his father and who married Miss Lulu Shuts; Halard; Fay, the wife of Arthur Worden, a farmer of Garden Grove township; Sue; Merle, the wife of Fred Hensley, also a farmer of that township; Kyle, at home; James G., Jr.; and Clell and Wayne, at home. Carl died in 1914 when almost thirteen years of age.

Mr. McBroom is a staunch democrat but he has never desired public office as a reward for his party fealty. His wife is a member of the Church of Christ, in the work of which she takes an active interest. Mr. McBroom's dominant traits are industry, integrity and good judgment, and these characteristics have been large factors in his success in life. He has many warm friends and those who know him most intimately hold him in the highest esteem.

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### JAMES CARREL.

James Carrel, who owns and operates one hundred and fifty-four acres of land in Richland township, was born in Keokuk county, Iowa, June 3, 1855. His father, Sylvester Carrel, was probably born in Indiana and in 1854 took up his residence in Decatur county, Iowa, arriving here from Keokuk county, where he had lived for two years. He located in Richland township, this county, entering eighty acres of land on section 7, to which he later added forty acres. He was an efficient farmer and possessed good business judgment, which enabled him to accumulate a competence from his activity in the cultivation of his land and the raising of stock. He was a member of the Grange and his political belief was that of the democratic party. He passed away November 9, 1896. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Drusilla Dunlap, died in Iowa in 1856, when our subject was but an infant. She was at that time probably not more than twenty-five years of age. Both of her parents were lifelong residents of Indiana.

James Carrel, who was an only child, was reared upon the home farm and attended the district school in the acquirement of his education. He early began assisting his father with the work of the farm and thus became familiar with agricultural methods. Upon reaching years of maturity he decided to follow the occupation to which he had been reared and has never had occasion to regret his choice as he has gained a gratifying measure of success as a general farmer and stock-raiser. He owns one hundred and fifty-four acres of excel-

lent land, upon which he has made many improvements, and is recognized as an up-to-date and prosperous farmer.

In December, 1877, occurred the marriage of Mr. Carrel and Miss Laura Alice Clark, who was born in Appanoose county, this state, on the 30th of May, 1859; of the marriage of William and Margaret Ann (Wallace) Clark, who removed from Ohio to Iowa in an early day. To them were born eight children, of whom Mrs. Carrel is the seventh. By her marriage she has become the mother of five children: Stella Drusilla, born November 28, 1878, who married George Needham, of Decatur county, by whom she has a son, Vernice; Ira A., who was born February 21, 1882, and died in childhood; Margaret Grace, born August 2, 1888, who gave her hand in marriage to Casper Lamb, of Union county, by whom she has three children, Elma Lorine, Carl Albert and Dewaine Clark; Ellnora, born December 26, 1891, who is at home; and Goldie Gladys, born March 1, 1895, who is now the wife of William Jones, of Clarke county.

Mr. Carrel gives his political allegiance to the Democratic party, which he supports loyally at the polls, but he has never aspired to political office. Both he and his wife belong to the Christian church, whose work profits by their cooperation and material support. During the many years that he has resided in this county Mr. Carrel has won the sincere friendship of many and the respect of all with whom he has come into contact.

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## J. VIRGIL ARNEY.

J. Virgil Arney has since January 1, 1913, held the office of deputy clerk of the supreme court of Iowa and has proved capable and conscientious in the discharge of his important duties. He still considers Leon as his place of residence and is well known and highly esteemed throughout Decatur county. His birth occurred in Franklin township, this county, on the 30th of November, 1873, and he is a son of Ambrose N. Arney. The family removed from Ohio to Indiana, thence to Illinois and later to Davis county, Iowa, where Ambrose N. Arney was living at the outbreak of the Civil war. In 1869 he came to Decatur county and taught school for two years. Following his marriage he engaged in farming in Franklin township and continued to reside there until 1906, when he removed to Bonney, Texas, where he is now living practically retired. He is a zealous republican and holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and the

Masonic order. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Olive S. Delk, was born in Lucas county, Iowa, and died in 1896, when forty-six years of age, leaving two children: Dolly M., whose birth occurred on the 16th of December, 1872, and who is now the wife of Virgil F. Penniwell, of Leon; and J. Virgil.

The latter remained upon the home farm until he was sixteen years of age and attended the public schools in the acquirement of his early education. In the fall of 1889 he entered Simpson College at Indianola, Iowa, and remained there until the winter of 1892-3, when he returned home. He assisted with the work of the home farm until 1901, when he removed to the vicinity of Pleasanton, in Hamilton township, and a year later he took up his residence in Davis City, where he engaged in the mercantile business until the spring of 1904. He was then made assistant cashier of the Valley Bank and held that office until 1905, when he returned to the homestead, which he operated until January 1, 1913. Since that date he has been deputy clerk of the supreme court and has made a record that is highly creditable.

On the 28th of June, 1894, Mr. Arney married Miss Susan Woodmansee, a daughter of John Woodmansee, of Leon, and to this union have been born five children, Vivian, Olive, Harold, Ruth and Frances, all natives of Decatur county and all at home.

Mr. Arney is a stalwart republican and was at one time his party's candidate for treasurer of Decatur county. He was reared in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church but his wife and children belong to the Christian church. Fraternally he is identified with the Masonic blue lodge and the subordinate lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Davis City and his wife holds membership in the Order of the Eastern Star and in the Rebekahs. Mr. Arney has been a lifelong resident of Decatur county and the fact that those who have known him since boyhood hold him in the highest esteem is incontrovertible proof that his life has been well spent.

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### WILLIAM E. A. SCOTT.

William E. A. Scott, commonly known as Ed Scott, owns and operates four hundred acres of land near Tuskeega, in Bloomington township. He was born in Ringgold county, near the Decatur county line, November 5, 1870, a son of John and Ann (Jackson) Scott. The father was born near Waverly, Illinois, but was married at Tuskeega, Decatur county, Iowa. He secured considerable land in

this county, which he improved and cultivated for many years, and passed away upon his farm on the 7th of March, 1899, when sixty-four years of age, and his demise was the occasion of much regret, as he was well and favorably known. His political belief was that of the republican party and he served in various township offices. Fraternally he belonged to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and both he and his wife held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. She was born near Kokomo, Indiana, but in her girlhood accompanied her parents on their removal to this county. Her father, Edward Jackson, homesteaded a farm near the present site of Tuskeega, which is now owned by our subject. The Jacksons were among the early settlers of this county, as they arrived in 1840. Mrs. Scott passed away August 28, 1898, when sixty-six years of age. On the paternal side our subject is descended from Scotch-Irish ancestors and on the maternal from English stock. He is one of four children, the others being: J. P., who is residing upon the home farm; Mrs. W. W. Danner, a resident of New Mexico; and Mrs. E. H. Baker, of Des Moines.

William E. A. Scott was reared under the parental roof and is indebted to the public-school system for his education. During his boyhood days he assisted his father with the work of the home farm and when he arrived at years of maturity decided to follow the occupation of farming. He has been very successful and now owns four hundred acres of excellent land in Bloomington township which adjoins the town of Tuskeega on three sides. He raises the usual crops and also engages in stock-raising quite extensively. Both phases of his business are well conducted and are proving very profitable.

In August, 1893, occurred the marriage of Mr. Scott and Miss Eva Barrett, who was born in Story county, Iowa, near Nevada, October 5, 1870, of the marriage of A. C. and Ellen (Dickinson) Barrett, early settlers of this state. They were born respectively in Ohio and in the vicinity of Kokomo, Indiana, but were married in Iowa. Mr. Barrett, who was a farmer by occupation, passed away in February, 1908, at the age of sixty years, in the faith of the Christian church. His wife, who is living at Estherville, Iowa, is sixty-three years old. They were the parents of two sons and three daughters, the brothers and sisters of Mrs. Scott being: James, of Balboa Heights, Panama, who is in the United States government employ; Mrs. Mayme Wood, of Kellerton, Iowa; Jesse, of Omaha, Nebraska; and Mrs. J. S. Coffin, of Estherville, Iowa. Mrs. Scott received a good education, including a thorough business course, and taught school for some time. She was also a stenographer and was employed



in Chicago at the time of her marriage. She has become the mother of six children, one of whom died in infancy, the others being: Rothmer, who is attending the Iowa State University; Dale, who is a member of the class of 1915 of the Lamoni high school; Ardis, who is attending high school; Kenneth, a student in the grades; and Vivian.

Mr. Scott is a democrat and has served acceptably in various township offices. Fraternally he belongs to the Masonic order, and both he and his wife hold membership in the Christian church of Kellerton, associations which indicate much concerning the principles which govern his life. He has been very successful, not only gaining financial independence but also winning the sincere respect and esteem of those who come in contact with him.

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### ROY H. GAMMON.

Roy H. Gammon, who owns and operates an excellent tract of land on section 2, Eden township, was born in that township on the 1st of July, 1868, a son of William and Caroline (Jenkins) Gammon, natives respectively of Tennessee and Indiana. In 1851 the father came to Decatur county, Iowa, and entered one hundred and sixty acres in Eden township, which he at once began clearing and improving. He soon had his place under cultivation and continued to devote his time to farming until 1909, when he felt that he had accumulated sufficient of this world's goods and retired to Leon, where he is still residing. His wife also survives.

Roy H. Gammon was reared under the parental roof and at the usual age entered the district schools. He supplemented the education there acquired by attending the Leon high school and a business college in Burlington. He then returned home and remained with his parents until they removed to Leon, at which time he purchased the homestead of two hundred acres on section 2, Eden township. He has made additional improvements on the property and has met with gratifying success as a farmer and stock-raiser. He raises only high grade stock and has found that branch of his business very profitable.

Mr. Gammon was married on the 12th of August, 1903, to Miss Nellie Caine, a daughter of Henry and Emily (Walton) Caine, both natives of Illinois. The father, who carried on mercantile pursuits in that state for many years, is now operating a farm in New



Mexico. The mother died in July, 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Gammon have one son, Lester M., who is nine years old.

Mr. Gammon is a democrat and has served as assessor of his township, while he is now holding the office of trustee. A lifelong resident of Eden township, he has thoroughly identified his interests with those of his community and is known as a citizen of unusual public spirit.

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### E. W. TOWNSEND.

For twenty-two years E. W. Townsend has been cashier of the Citizens State Savings Bank of Decatur and during that time has had the responsibility of the management of the institution, which he aided in organizing in 1893. His birth occurred in Morrow county, Ohio, December 26, 1853. His father, Eli Townsend, was also a native of the Buckeye state but in 1863 removed with his family to Warren county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming until his demise.

E. W. Townsend was reared upon the homestead in Warren county as he was but ten years old when he accompanied his parents to this state. He assisted his father with the farm work until the latter's demise. When thirty-four years of age our subject came to Decatur county and for five years followed agricultural pursuits. In February, 1893, he was instrumental in organizing the Citizens State Savings Bank of Decatur, which, however, was then a private institution, his partner for several years being Nathan Schee, of Indianola, a boyhood friend and neighbor. In 1905, however, the bank was incorporated as the Citizens State Savings Bank and was capitalized at twenty thousand dollars. The officers are: president, James Creswell; vice president, H. T. Rauch; cashier, E. W. Townsend, who has held that position since the organization of the institution in 1893; and assistant cashier, O. F. Walker. Mr. Townsend holds high rank among the financiers of Decatur county and is responsible for the growth and prosperity of the bank more than any other man, as he has directed its policy for twenty-two years. He is not only thoroughly familiar with all details of the routine business of the institution but also understands the larger questions of finance and currency.

Mr. Townsend was married in Des Moines to Miss Martha P. Burrows, whose birth occurred in Poweshiek county, this state. They are the parents of six children: C. B., engaged in the insurance business in Decatur township, who is married and has a family; F. A.,

an insurance agent of Leon, who is also married; Blanche, the wife of V. J. Anderson, a real-estate agent of Osceola, Iowa; Sadie, who married O. F. Walker, assistant cashier of the Citizens State Savings Bank; Carrie, the wife of Dr. Paul, of Osceola; and Bruce, attending high school at Leon.

Mr. Townsend supports the republican party at the polls but has never been a seeker for official preferment. Both he and his wife are influential members of the Methodist Episcopal church and both have taught Sunday-school classes for many years. They are highly esteemed in their community and it is a recognized fact that their influence is always on the side of right and justice.

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### J. M. HOLLINGER.

J. M. Hollinger, of Morgan township, is well and favorably known throughout Decatur county. For almost a quarter of a century he served ably and conscientiously as county surveyor and he has for many years been closely identified with the agricultural development of his locality. He is also entitled to honor and respect as a veteran of the Civil war and in times of peace has manifested the same devotion to the public good that led him to offer his services to his country in the '60s.

Mr. Hollinger was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, November 7, 1840, a son of John and Sarah (Wollam) Hollinger. The paternal great-grandfather, John Hollinger, was a native of Virginia and fought in the Continental army during the Revolutionary war. His son John was born in Virginia on the 6th of September, 1777, and married Miss Hannah March, who was also born in Virginia on the 11th of October, 1780. For some time they resided in western Pennsylvania but in 1801 they removed to Ohio with their family, including their son John, who was born in Pennsylvania on the 14th of June, 1814. In young manhood he married Miss Sarah Wollam, who was born in Ohio on the 8th of March, 1820. They continued to reside in Ohio until called by death, the father of our subject dying on the 11th of March, 1894, and the mother on the 1st of June, 1891. The family is of German descent.

J. M. Hollinger was reared under the parental roof and during his boyhood and youth attended the common schools in Ohio. Later he became a student in Mount Union College, that state, where he remained for two years. In August, 1862, however, he put aside

all personal considerations and offered his services to his country, enlisting at Bucyrus in Company C, One Hundred and First Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was at the front with that command for three years and one month and took part in many engagements, including that of Perrysville, Ohio, October 8, 1862; Knob's Gap, December 24, 1862; and Stone river, which began December 30th of that year and continued for several days. On New Year's day, 1863, while serving under General Rosecrans in the last named battle, he received three wounds, one in the breast, one in the left shoulder and one in the right foot. This necessitated his being sent to a hospital and he remained there until August, 1863, when he was transferred to the Forty-third Company, Second Battalion, Veteran Reserve Corps, where he remained as chief clerk at the Denison United States General Hospital until mustered out at Camp Denison, near Cincinnati, Ohio. After the close of the war he entered the employ of John Zumstein, of Cincinnati, a sutler, and in the capacity of chief clerk went to Jefferson barracks, St. Louis, where he remained for three years.

After leaving St. Louis Mr. Hollinger went to Colorado and later to California and on this trip saw a great deal of the western country. In May, 1868, he located in Decatur county, Iowa, purchasing forty acres of land in Morgan township. Later he bought an additional forty acres and he has long been numbered among the successful farmers of that township. With the help of his son he still operates the place, which is well improved. He has also given a good deal of time to public service as in 1889 he was elected county surveyor on the republican ticket and held that office for twenty-three years, after which he refused to again become a candidate. He has also served for sixteen years as clerk of Morgan township.

On December 25, 1872, Mr. Hollinger married Miss Elzina J. Shields, a daughter of Madison and Cynthia (Long) Shields, natives respectively of Virginia and of Pennsylvania. He was of Yankee stock and she of Dutch descent. They were married in Ohio and there she passed away when Mrs. Hollinger was but six years of age. Mr. Shields subsequently married Miss Mary Jane Turner, of Gallia county, Ohio. After farming in the Buckeye state for a number of years he came to Iowa in 1865 and located in Morgan township. He became the owner of land in Missouri and eventually removed to Mercer county, that state, where he died in the spring of 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Hollinger have three children. C. M., who was born August 9, 1874, married Miss May Craig and they reside in Grand Island, Nebraska, where he is car and train inspector for the

Union Pacific shops. They have three children, Francis, Velma and Hazel. Buford, who was born October 17, 1875, is a farmer by occupation. He married Miss Mamie Duncan, of Lineville, Iowa, and they have eight children, Willard, Siebert, Gerald, Hubert, Vinetta, Ralph, Juanita and Alta. Harold A., whose birth occurred January 20, 1883, is farming in Morgan township. He married Maude Orey and their children are four in number, namely, Bernard, Miles, Elsie and Myrtle.

Mr. Hollinger belongs to the Masonic blue lodge at Pleasanton and to the Grand Army post of that town and is popular in both organizations. He and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, to the support of which they contribute and in whose work they are deeply interested. No movement whose object is the general welfare lacks his hearty cooperation and during the many years that he has resided in this county he has gained the sincere respect of all who have come in contact with him.

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### JOHN THOMAS ROBERTSON.

John Thomas Robertson, junior member of the prosperous real-estate firm of Keller & Robertson of Leon, was born in Shelby county, Illinois, January 31, 1875. His parents are representatives of old families of that section, and the father followed agricultural pursuits until he retired from active life.

John Thomas Robertson was reared in his native county and there attended the common schools. On the 8th of February, 1897, when twenty-four years of age, he removed to Decatur county, Iowa, locating on a farm three and a half miles south of Davis City. He continued to devote his time to the cultivation of the soil and the care of live stock until 1907, when he turned his attention to the real-estate business, becoming a partner of John Gates, a banker of Davis City. He resided at that place until four years ago, when he came to Leon and became the junior member of the present firm of Keller & Robertson. The partners operate in Iowa, Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska and have the largest real-estate business in Decatur county. They handle property on commission, trade, buy and sell outright, and have negotiated many important realty transfers.

Mr. Robertson was married in Shelby county, Illinois, to Miss Lena Scott, and they have three children, Orville Ray, Veta and Irene, all natives of this county. Mr. Robertson is a republican and



takes the interest of a good citizen in the affairs of government, but he has never desired official preferment. Mrs. Robertson belongs to the Christian church and takes an active part in the furtherance of its work. Since removing to Leon Mr. Robertson has cooperated in movements seeking the advancement of the city and has made many warm friends here.

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### GEORGE G. McGUIRE.

George G. McGuire, a respected citizen and representative agriculturist of Decatur county, has been successfully engaged in the pursuits of farming and stock-raising in Garden Grove township for about four decades. His birth occurred in Platte county, Missouri, on the 26th of March, 1844, his parents being John J. and Anna (Harman) McGuire, the former a native of Barren county, Kentucky, and the latter of Tazewell county, Virginia. Squire McGuire, the paternal grandfather, was a native of Ireland and a gentleman of Scotch-Irish parentage. By occupation he was a farmer, as was also his son John. The latter held the rank of assistant wagonmaster in Colonel Doniphan's regiment in the Mexican war, serving throughout the entire conflict. When hostilities had ceased he continued as wagonmaster, having charge of the trains of wagons furnishing supplies to the soldiers who were in the forts ready for Indian strife. He had charge of these supply wagons for a period of twelve years. When the war ended he took up his abode in Platte county, Missouri, and subsequently removed to Andrew county, that state, where he continued to reside until called to his final rest in 1877. His wife passed away in 1876. Both were devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and John J. McGuire was also a worthy exemplar of the Masonic fraternity. They became the parents of eight children, as follows: George G., of this review; Mary, who is the wife of F. F. Newcomer; Squire Daniel; William H.; John; Isabella, who gave her hand in marriage to a Mr. Myrick; Elsie; and Christopher C. Daniel and William participated in the Civil war as members of the Twenty-fifth Missouri Infantry and both were wounded at the battle of Shiloh.

George G. McGuire acquired his education in the public schools of his native county and spent his early life on the home farm. In 1862, when a young man of eighteen years, he went to Illinois, and for seven years he remained in the service of the Alexander Cattle Com-



pany. On the expiration of that period he removed to Nebraska, where for one year he acted as foreman of a stone quarry and then came to Iowa, residing in Lucas county until 1876. In that year he came to Decatur county and has here been actively engaged in the pursuits of general farming and stock-raising continuously since, having resided on his present place in Garden Grove township for the past twenty-two years.

On the 19th of March, 1867, Mr. McGuire was united in marriage to Miss Emma Updike, a daughter of Peter C. Updike, of Mason county, Illinois. To them were born five children, as follows: Charles S.; Elizabeth, the wife of O. E. Carlton, by whom she has four children—Harold, Hugh, Guy and Gertrude; Mary, who is the wife of Charles Kulp and has two children, Helen and Hugh; Jack, who died in 1904, when twenty-eight years of age, at Sheridan, Wyoming; and Claud, who wedded Miss Belle Morehead, by whom he had four children—Ruth, John M. (deceased), Paul and Eugene. The son Jack was a noted horseman and enjoyed the reputation of being one of the most daring and expert riders in the United States. As a trained rider he participated in contests with many of the best riders in the country and won several prizes. He rode at Denver, Colorado, when there were sixty-eight riders entered for the contest and sixty-three of these were disqualified by injuries received in being thrown from their horses. Jack McGuire was one of the five who went through the trying ordeal.

Mr. McGuire gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has served as township trustee for three years, while for fourteen years he has been a member of the school board. Fraternally he is identified with the local organization of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he is a past grand. He has now exceeded the Psalmist's allotted span of threescore years and ten but is still hale and hearty and is numbered among the representative and highly respected citizens of Decatur county.

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#### ANDERSON A. BURCHETT.

Anderson A. Burchett, who has resided in this county since 1855, is still supervising the operation of his farm of sixty-eight acres on section 3, Richland township. He was born in Hancock county, Tennessee, January 9, 1847, a son of A. F. and Leah (Anderson) Burchett, both natives of Tennessee. Their parents were from the

southern part of New England. Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Burchett removed to Greene county, Indiana, where they remained for seven years, after which they went to Kansas but did not locate in that state. In January, 1855, they came to this county with a party consisting of nine families who made the journey with ox teams and brought their goods and stock with them as they were seeking homes in a newly opened western country. A. F. Burchett settled on section 3, Richland township, and his brother-in-law, Lewis Anderson, settled in Long Creek township. Mr. Burchett was a democrat and served for years as justice of the peace. He was also township assessor and county supervisor, his election to office indicating the high place which he held in the estimation of his fellow citizens. The first Sunday school in the county was held in a log house in 1855 and he served as its superintendent. He belonged to the Camden Baptist church of Richland township, in which he was a deacon, becoming a member of that organization on the 20th of November, 1858, and so continuing until his demise, November 17, 1904. He was then seventy-five years old, as he was born March 1, 1829. His wife was born September 3, 1822, and died August 2, 1907, in the faith of the Baptist church, when she had nearly reached her eighty-fifth birthday. To their union were born eight children: Anderson A.: Rachel, who died in girlhood; Franklin, a resident of Clarke county, Iowa; Marshall, of Richland township; Mary, the wife of James Wamstaff, of Clarke county; Lucinda, who married D. T. Edwards, of Carroll county, Missouri; William, of Clarke county, Iowa; and Rebecca, the wife of J. F. Clawson, of Richland township.

Anderson A. Burchett was reared in this county from the age of eight years and acquired his education in the public schools. The first school which he attended was held in a log stable and the floor was of dirt. During his boyhood and youth he experienced the hardships of frontier life and his reminiscences of the early days of the county are of value to the present generation who find it hard to conceive of conditions other than those of the present. He broke the prairie land, split rails and did whatever else needed to be done in the work of developing a farm from the virgin prairie. He has always followed the occupation to which he was reared and for thirty years has resided upon the farm on section 3, Richland township, which he still owns. He has carried on general farming and his labors have yielded him a competence.

On the 4th of November, 1868, Mr. Burchett married Mrs. Narvesta Comstock, née Wheelles, who was born in Claiborne county, Tennessee, October 11, 1840, a daughter of Josiah and Jane (Ham-

lin) Wheelles. Her father was born in Claiborne county, Tennessee, but removed to Davis county, Iowa, where he was killed by lightning. His wife was born in Lee county, Virginia, and passed away in Davis county, Iowa. Five of the children born to their union were living at the time of the demise of the mother but Mrs. Burchett is the only one now surviving. She removed with a brother, a sister and an uncle, William Wheelles, to Decatur county in 1853. They located in Richland township, where Mrs. Burchett has since resided. Her uncle subsequently removed to Arkansas, where his demise occurred. She was married in 1859 to George W. Comstock, who died four years later while serving at the front in the Civil war as a member of the Thirty-fourth Regiment of Iowa Volunteers. To their union were born two children: Allen B., who is residing in Bridgeport, Nebraska; and Mrs. Jane Hileman, deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Burchett are the parents of five children: Fannie L., who died in infancy; Anna, the wife of George W. Grimm, who is residing in Richland township; W. F., of that township, who married Miss Nellie Cole; Mollie, the wife of John Grimm, of South Dakota; and Martha, twin to Mollie, who married Mr. Greeley, an editor of Grand River. Mr. and Mrs. Burchett have twenty-eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren and Mrs. Burchett has thirty-five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Mr. Burchett is a democrat and is loyal in his support of the party but has not taken an active part in politics. He served on the jury in the Vanschaick case, which resulted from the blowing up of the old courthouse at Leon. He belongs to the Camden Baptist church, of which he is a deacon, and his wife has been a member of that organization since 1858. Both are much interested in the work of the church and contribute generously to its support. During the six decades that he has resided in this county Mr. Burchett has at all times done his full share of the work of development and improvement and he takes much pleasure in the great progress that the county has made in that time.

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### RANDOLPH McCUTCHAN.

Randolph McCutchan, who is carrying on farming and stock-raising in Richland township, was for a number of years a breeder of thoroughbred Hereford cattle but now raises good graded stock. He owns and operates two hundred and eighty acres of fine land on

sections 5 and 6 and also owns eighty acres in Clarke county. He was born in Doyle township, that county, on the 17th of April, 1853, a son of Samuel F. and Elizabeth (Davis) McCutchan. The father was born in Indiana but came to Iowa with his parents, Samuel and Susanna (Mowry) McCutchan, both of whom passed away in Clarke county. Samuel F. McCutchan settled in Union county in March, 1852, and subsequently removed to Clarke county, where he continued to reside until called by death on the 4th of October, 1892. He was a republican and took an active part in local public affairs. He was very popular personally and was generally known as "S. F." His wife was probably born in Virginia but removed to Iowa from Illinois. Her parents, Vanson and Julia (White) Davis, were early residents of this state and the Davis family, who were members of a colony in Clarke county, founded the town of Hopeville. Mrs. Elizabeth (Davis) McCutchan died when sixty-seven years old, in the faith of the United Brethren church. She was the mother of thirteen children, of whom ten are living. Our subject is the only one residing in this county but he has two sisters in Clarke county and one in Union county, while the others in the family live in Nebraska and Oklahoma.

Randolph McCutchan was reared in Clarke county and there attended the public schools, thus acquiring an education. He has followed agricultural pursuits since starting out on his independent business career and has never had occasion to regret his choice of an occupation as he had gained financial independence and has also found the work congenial. He owns two hundred and eighty acres of fine land located on sections 5 and 6, Richland township, and is there engaged in farming and stock-raising. He also holds title to an eighty acre tract in Clarke county. Since August, 1885, he has resided at his present home although his holdings at first comprised but forty acres, which he bought on time as his resources were then quite limited. As he prospered he bought additional land and he has made many excellent improvements upon his place, including the erection of a commodious residence.

Mr. McCutchan was married on the 16th of August, 1885, to Miss Maggie H. Beaman, whose birth occurred in Clarke county on the 10th of April, 1862. Her parents, Ezekiel and Polly (Nichols) Beaman, were both natives of Indiana and were married in Warren county, that state. Many years ago they located in Clarke county, Iowa, where the father died in 1865, when thirty-five years of age. He was a member of the Baptist church, as was his wife. Following his demise she married Robert Combs and her



death occurred on the 3d of April, 1892, when she was about sixty-five years old. Mr. and Mrs. Beaman were the parents of eleven children, ten of whom grew to maturity, and of these two are now deceased. Of the eight who survive only Mrs. McCutchan is a resident of this county. A sister and three brothers live in Clarke county, two sisters in Page county and one sister in Union county. Mrs. McCutchan attended the public schools and taught for several terms both before and after her marriage. She has one son, Emmett Dalton, who was born June 19, 1897, and is attending school and also assists his father materially with the work of the farm.

Mr. McCutchan is a republican and has acceptably filled a number of local offices. The family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church of Hopeville and no good cause lacks their cooperation and support. Mr. McCutchan and his wife have gained all that they have by their own efforts and he feels that she deserves a great deal of the credit for his success, as previous to his marriage he had not accumulated any capital. In carrying on his work as a farmer he has manifested the qualities of enterprise, progressiveness and sound judgment and his ability has gained him the respect of those with whom he has been associated. Personally he has made many friends as he is strictly honest and upright and is considerate of others.

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### EDMUND J. BLAIR.

Edmund J. Blair, who is operating an excellent farm situated three-quarters of a mile from Van Wert, was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, on the 30th of July, 1853, a son of James and Mary Louisa (Baker) Blair, both natives of Pennsylvania. The father, who was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church and who also gave some time to agricultural pursuits, came to Decatur county, Iowa, in 1854 and entered eighty acres of land in Long Creek township. Two years later he removed to his homestead, which he improved and operated until 1904. He then retired from active life and took up his residence in Van Wert, where he lived until his demise on the 16th of September, 1905. He reached the advanced age of eighty years. He was active in the ministry until he was seventy-five years old, preaching at Van Wert and at other places in the county. His wife preceded him in death about three weeks, dying on the 22d of August, 1905.



Edmund J. Blair was but three years of age when his parents took up their residence in Long Creek township and he grew to manhood in this county. He remained under the parental roof until he became of age and then began teaching school, which profession he followed for twenty-seven terms. He taught the Van Wert school and also taught in Clarke county for a time. While teaching he devoted the summers to farm work, renting land until 1879, when he purchased eighty acres on section 18, Franklin township. Subsequently he bought forty acres on section 23, Long Creek township, and still later became the owner of an additional eighty acres in Franklin township. From 1881 until 1907 he cultivated and improved his land and made his farm one of the best developed in the county. In the last named year, however, he sold his holdings to his sons and purchased the old family homestead of eighty acres on section 24, Long Creek township. Subsequently he added a forty acre tract adjoining the homestead and is now concentrating his energies upon the operation of his place, which is situated three-quarters of a mile from Van Wert. It is unusually well improved and returns him a good annual income. In addition to growing the usual crops he raises high grade Duroc-Jersey hogs, feeding about one hundred and forty head per year.

Mr. Blair was married in April, 1881, to Miss Magdaline Kemp, a daughter of John M. and Mary (Lough) Kemp, natives of Germany. Both emigrated to America in 1831, the father being at that time a young man of twenty years and the mother a girl of sixteen. They met and were married in Pennsylvania, where the father followed the tailor's trade until he removed to Ohio, whence he made his way to Indiana. In 1856 he came to Iowa and rented land in Eden township, Decatur county, which he operated for five years, at the end of which time he purchased fifty acres of land. He devoted his energies to the cultivation and improvement of that place until the demise of his wife, which occurred on the 26th of July, 1879. In 1862 he enlisted in the Missouri state militia and served therein for nine months. About 1882 he went to the Soldiers' Home maintained at Leavenworth, Kansas, and there resided during the remainder of his life, passing away on the 17th of March, 1893. Mr. and Mrs. Blair have become the parents of five children: Harry J., who is farming in Franklin township; Wilbur P., also an agriculturist of that township; Arthur, who is cashier of the Iowa State Bank at Osceola; Josephine, at home; and Edmund W., attending school at Osceola.

Mr. Blair is a republican and for several years served as justice of the peace of Franklin township, while he has also been assessor and trustee of that township and has likewise held the office of trustee of Long Creek township. In all of his official capacities he has discharged his duties ably and conscientiously, thus winning the commendation of his fellow citizens. Fraternally he belongs to Lodge No. 212, I. O. O. F., of Van Wert, and his religious allegiance is given to the Methodist Episcopal church. Practically his entire life has been passed in this county and the fact that those who have been intimately acquainted with him from boyhood are his loyal and sincere friends is proof of the sterling worth of his character.

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### WILLARD G. LOVELL.

Willard G. Lovell, a successful farmer of New Buda township, was born near Burlington on the 19th of July, 1873, of the marriage of Alfred and Sarah Ann (Merrick) Lovell. The father was born near Raunds, Northamptonshire, England, October 29, 1844, his parents being Ekin and Elizabeth (Raunds) Lovell. Alfred Lovell was brought to the United States in his childhood and received his education in the common schools of Des Moines county, Iowa. Upon reaching mature years he determined to devote his life to farming and has met with gratifying success in that occupation, owning one hundred and sixty acres of excellent land on section 9, New Buda township, Decatur county. He is a republican in politics and about 1884 became justice of the peace, in which office he served for two years. His religious faith is that of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, in which he has been a deacon for about sixteen years. He was married on the 21st of April, 1870, in Des Moines county, Iowa, to Miss Almina Merrick, a daughter of Hiram and Ann Merrick. She passed away on the 29th of October, 1871, and on the 5th of May, 1872, he was united in marriage to her sister, Sarah Ann. To the second union five children have been born, namely: Willard G.; Emma Elva; Ida Belle, deceased; Laura Ellen; and Lula Ann. Alfred Lovell retired from active life in 1905 and with his wife and daughters is now living in Lamoni.

The son, Willard G. Lovell, attended the district schools and after completing his education remained upon the home farm with his parents, assisting his father with the work of the homestead until the latter retired. Our subject then assumed charge of the operation

of the farm, which he rents from his father. He carries on general farming and stock-raising and his labors are effective, yielding him a comfortable annual income.

In 1905 occurred the marriage of Mr. Lovell and Miss Mary Ann Henderson, a daughter of William and Julia (Fox) Henderson, natives respectively of Scotland and of Pennsylvania. Her parents located upon a farm in Jefferson county, Iowa, near Batavia, and there the father is still living. The mother, however, died in 1894. To Mr. and Mrs. Lovell have been born three children: Martha, whose natal day was the 22d of August, 1906; Georgia, born July 23, 1912; and Retha, born December 1, 1914.

Mr. Lovell supports the candidates and platform of the democratic party at the polls. He and his wife are both members of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints of Lamoni and take a helpful interest in its work. Mr. Lovell has demonstrated his ability as an agriculturist and his sterling worth of character has gained him the confidence and esteem of all who have been brought in contact with him.

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### REUBEN E. McLAUGHLIN.

Reuben E. McLaughlin, a well known and respected citizen of Leon, is now serving for the second term in the office of county auditor, proving an able and popular incumbent. His birth occurred in Decatur county, Iowa, on the 28th of May, 1881, his parents being John W. and Mary E. (Woodmansee) McLaughlin. The father, a native of Marion, Ohio, came to this county when a youth of twelve years and here attended the public schools in the acquirement of an education. In 1861 he enlisted for service in the Union army as a member of Company I, Thirty-fourth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, remaining with that command until the cessation of hostilities and being honorably discharged in 1865. Returning to Decatur county, he resumed agricultural pursuits and here successfully engaged in farming throughout the remainder of his active business career. His demise occurred on the 28th of March, 1907, and the community mourned the loss of one of its esteemed and substantial citizens. To him and his wife were born five children, as follows: Ettie G.; Laura, who is the wife of Francis Evert; John, who died in infancy; James W.; and Reuben E., of this review.

The last named acquired his early education in the public schools of this county and subsequently entered Drake University at Des Moines, completing his studies in that institution in 1900. After returning home he devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits for six years and then embarked in the farm implement business, conducting enterprises of that character at Davis City and Decatur for three years. In 1910 he was elected county auditor on the democratic ticket and at the end of two years' service was chosen for another term, in this connection making a most creditable and commendable record as an efficient and trustworthy public official.

In 1902 Mr. McLaughlin was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary E. Sheely, a daughter of J. R. Sheely, of Clarke county, Iowa. They have one child, Verda A. Mr. McLaughlin is a young man of enterprise, ambition and worth and has won many friends within the borders of his native county.

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### C. W. BARR.

C. W. Barr, who is a substantial citizen of Morgan township, owns the Lick Branch Valley Farm and for years has been closely identified with the agricultural development of his locality. His birth occurred in Knox county, Ohio, on the 2d of November, 1843, and he is a son of Robert and Harriet (Bradfield) Barr. They located in Ohio in an early day and there the father carried on agricultural pursuits for many years. The mother died in that state in 1855 and the father subsequently remarried. Eventually he emigrated westward, locating in Decatur county, Iowa, where our subject had preceded him several years. The father purchased land in Morgan township, to the operation of which he gave his time and energies until called by death in 1890.

C. W. Barr was reared in Ohio and there acquired his education. When seventeen years of age he joined the Union army, enlisting on the 4th of October, 1861, in Company I, Fifty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for three years. His regiment, which was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland, participated in the Kentucky campaign as a part of the Seventeenth Army Corps until the spring of 1862. From that time on it operated in Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia. Mr. Barr was honorably discharged at Villanow, Georgia, October 17, 1864. He returned home and remained in Ohio until 1869, when he came to Decatur county and for two



years worked in the employ of John Clarke in a woolen factory. He then purchased one hundred and thirty-five acres of land on section 17, Morgan township, which he improved and cultivated, and later he bought additional land until he now owns three hundred and sixty-four acres on sections 17 and 20. He has made his farm one of the best developed places in his township and through its operation has gained financial independence. He still takes an interest in its management although his son, Perry R., is now operating it. They raise thoroughbred Hereford cattle and have gained an enviable reputation as stockbreeders. Mr. Barr has always been practical and progressive in his agricultural work and the success which he has gained is well deserved. He is vice president of the Farmers & Merchants Bank of Lineville and is recognized as a man of sound business judgment.

On the 5th of September, 1867, Mr. Barr was married to Miss Sarah Borden, a daughter of Bradford and Charlotte (Evans) Borden, who were pioneers of Ohio and both of whom are deceased. Mrs. Barr has also passed away, her demise occurring in August, 1889, when she was forty-six years old. She was the mother of five children. Lucy A. married G. B. Keshlear and they became the parents of two children: Barr, a young man twenty-one years of age, residing in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and Joseph A., seventeen years old, who is attending school at Leon, Iowa. Mr. Keshlear passed away in November, 1900, and his widow subsequently married L. B. Young, a farmer of Morgan township, by whom she has a son, Lawrence Bradford, who is six years old. Perry R. was married on the 8th of May, 1902, to Miss Blanch Willis, a daughter of James M. and Malinda (McGrew) Willis, who were born respectively in Tennessee and Missouri. In 1883 they became residents of Decatur county and although the father had farmed in Ohio he engaged in the mercantile business in Pleasanton after coming to this county. He is still conducting a store there and since McKinley's first term has served as postmaster of that town. His wife died in March, 1893. To Mr. and Mrs. Perry R. Barr three children have been born, namely: Charles Willis; Artemisia, who died February 4, 1904, when a year old; and Suzie Brayton, eight years of age.

Mr. Barr is a republican and for eleven years served as county commissioner and he has also been assessor of his township. His religious belief is that of the Christian Union church, in the work of which he takes much interest. Through his membership in the Grand Army of the Republic he keeps up his association with others who fought in defense of the Union and he is very loyal to that



organization. He has now reached the age of seventy-one years and is living largely retired, having earned a period of leisure through many years of well directed labor. All who know him respect and esteem him highly. His son, Perry R. Barr, is now operating the homestead and is proving an enterprising, capable and up-to-date agriculturist. He also gives his political allegiance to the republican party and for four years has served acceptably as trustee of Morgan township. Fraternally he is identified with the Masonic order at Pleasanton and has many friends both within and without that organization.

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### SAMUEL STUTEVILLE.

Samuel Stuteville, a well known and successful farmer and stock-raiser of section 20, Morgan township, was born in Richland county, Illinois, on the 12th of January, 1857. His father, Charles Stuteville, was born in Kentucky of Scotch descent, October 9, 1803, and married Mrs. Margaret Conner, who was born June 6, 1806, and died January 6, 1845. Subsequently Mr. Stuteville was united in marriage in Illinois to Miss Maria Gardner, whose birth occurred in Richland county, Illinois, on the 10th of September, 1819. She was of Yankee stock. In 1865 Mr. and Mrs. Stuteville removed to Missouri, locating in Mercer county, that state, near Lineville, Iowa. The father purchased land, upon which he resided until his death on the 11th of September, 1882. His wife continued to reside on the homestead and survived him for about six years, dying on the 10th of April, 1888. To their union were born eight children. Five of the sixteen children born of the two marriages of Mr. Stuteville are still living.

Samuel Stuteville began assisting with the work of the home farm when but ten years of age and for a number of years had complete charge of its operation. He continued to reside under the parental roof until he was twenty-nine years old, but in 1886 came to Decatur county, Iowa. He purchased eighty-eight acres of land on sections 24 and 25, Morgan township, near Lineville, and resided upon that place for four years. He then removed to his present homestead on section 20, that township, which he bought from George McDougal, who acquired it by relinquishment from John Milton, who in turn had entered it from the federal government. Mr. Stuteville subsequently added forty acres to the one hundred and twenty

acres which he first purchased on section 20 and now owns one hundred and sixty acres of splendid land, all of which is in a high state of cultivation. He operates his farm personally and in addition to growing the usual crops raises high grade stock. He devotes his entire time to his agricultural work and his well directed labors return him a gratifying annual income.

Mr. Stuteville was married on the 11th of May, 1884, to Miss Lydia Ann Manchester, a daughter of Isaac and Emily Manchester, more detailed mention of whom is made in the sketch of W. R. Manchester. To Mr. and Mrs. Stuteville have been born five children: a son who was born in 1885 and died in infancy; Fannie, whose birth occurred August 31, 1886, and who married Harvey Gammill, of Washington county, Colorado, and has a daughter, Vera; Emma, who died when four months old; Elise Bessie, whose birth occurred on the 8th of April, 1892, and who is at home with her parents; and Seybert Perry, who was born June 27, 1903.

Mr. Stuteville is a republican in politics and for twenty years was justice of the peace for Morgan township. He was also for six years township assessor and served for a considerable period of time as road supervisor, while he was school director for fourteen years. In all of the above named offices he proved capable and conscientious, his continued reelection indicating the acceptability of his services. His wife belongs to the Christian church and he is a member of the Masonic blue lodge at Lineville. He has gained an enviable reputation as a man of unswerving integrity, great energy and excellent judgment.

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### CLAYTON M. KELLER.

One of the well known and successful real-estate firms of Leon is Keller & Robertson, of which Clayton M. Keller is the senior partner. He was born upon a farm north of Leon in Center township, Decatur county, in 1867 and is a son of W. R. and Nancy J. (Helm) Keller. Both of the parents were of English descent and previous to removing to Decatur county, Iowa, in the late '50s, resided in Tuscola, Illinois. The father devoted his time to farming and dealing in live stock and became the owner of a section of land, which is still in the possession of the family. His political belief was that of the democratic party and his church membership was held in the Christian church. He served in the Mexican war and was for two

or three years a soldier in the Civil war and he became an enthusiastic member of the Grand Army of the Republic. His demise occurred in Franklin township in 1899 and his wife passed away in 1898. To their union were born ten children, all of whom reached maturity, but some have now passed away. Those residing in this county aside from our subject are: A. R., a farmer of Grand River township; and Lydia and Anna, both on the homestead.

Clayton M. Keller was reared in Franklin township and there attended school, although his educational advantages were very limited. However, he has learned many valuable lessons in the school of experience and has been very successful in business. Until 1898 he followed agricultural pursuits and still owns a number of farms, including a two hundred acre tract near the homestead. Upon leaving the farm in 1898 he engaged in the real-estate business in Leon and in the intervening seventeen years has built up the largest business of that character in Decatur county. He and his partner, Mr. Robertson, deal in real estate of all kinds and buy and sell outright and on commission. They have operated in Iowa, Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska, and the volume of their business has grown steadily.

Mr. Keller married Miss Maude Pryor, who was born in Garden Grove township, this county, and is a daughter of A. M. Pryor, a real-estate dealer of Leon. Mr. Keller attends the Christian church and fraternally is a member of the bodies of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, including the canton. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party but he has never desired public office as a reward for his loyalty. His residence, which is one block from the square, is one of the finest in the city, and he is recognized as a substantial and representative citizen. The success which he has gained is the just reward of his strict attention to business, his energy, his initiative and his fair dealing.

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### EDWARD W. NEVELN.

Edward W. Neveln, who since 1913 has been superintendent of schools at Lamoni, was born at Victor, Iowa, on the 25th of April, 1890. His parents, C. H. and Catherine (Rotermund) Neveln, are still residing in that place. The father is engaged in business there and is also a farmer and stockman.

Edward W. Neveln was reared at home and at the usual age entered the public schools. He graduated from the high school at

Victor with the class of 1907 and was then for two years a student at the State University of Iowa, and for a similar period of time attended the Iowa State Teachers' College at Cedar Falls, from which he was graduated with the class of 1912. In 1913 he was elected superintendent of schools at Lamoni for a three years' term and he has proved an able school administrator, working efficiently for the advancement of the public-school system. He has the faculty of securing the hearty cooperation of those who are working with and under him and he has the confidence and goodwill of the community.

Mr. Neveln is a democrat, has been delegate to a number of party conventions and is a leader in local democratic circles. Fraternally he belongs to the Lamoni Masonic lodge and his religious views are indicated by his membership in the Baptist church. He is a young man of great energy and is characterized by progressiveness in all that he undertakes. He seeks to make the work of the school meet the requirements of modern life and so adequately prepare the students for doing well their part of the world's work.

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### JOSHUA A. WEST.

Joshua A. West, who owns seven hundred acres of excellent land and recently gave his children two hundred acres, resides on section 1, Richland township, and is recognized as one of the most successful farmers and stock-raisers in Decatur county. He was born August 2, 1847, in Knox county, Illinois, a son of Samuel West. The latter was a native of Vermont and was reared partly in that state and partly in northern Indiana, where his parents removed when he was a boy. In early manhood he went to Knox county, Illinois, and there conducted a sawmill. For some time he traveled extensively over Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois but later formed a partnership with P. B. Selby, who subsequently became his brother-in-law, and they operated a sawmill for years. Mr. West was married in Knox county to Miss Mary Ann Gullett, a native of Indiana, who had removed to Winnebago county, Illinois, when a young woman. They died in the Prairie state, the former in January, 1860, when fifty-one years of age, and the latter in 1910 when ninety-four years old. They were the parents of eight children, of whom our subject is the fourth in order of birth. Annie became the wife of Rev. Clark, a Methodist Episcopal minister, and passed away in Knox county, Illinois, leaving a family. John,



who was a soldier in the Civil war and was incarcerated for ten months in Andersonville prison, is now residing in that county. Elizabeth is the wife of a Mr. McTier and lives in Knox county, Illinois. Joshua A., of this review, is the next in order of birth. Daniel is residing upon the old homestead in Knox county. Philamon, who owns several farms, is now living retired in Galesburg, Illinois. Mary Ann died when five years of age and one child died in infancy.

Joshua A. West was reared upon the home farm in Knox county, and attended the public schools in the acquirement of his education, which was somewhat limited, as he had to shoulder the responsibilities of a man at an early age. He was not only compelled to make his own way while still a boy, but it was also necessary for him to contribute to the support of others. He turned his attention to agricultural pursuits and after farming independently for some time in Illinois he removed to Decatur county, Iowa, arriving here in 1881. As the years passed his resources increased and he became the owner of nine hundred acres of excellent land, two hundred acres of which he has recently given his children. His home place is on section 1, Richland township, besides which he owns one hundred and eighty-one acres in Long Creek township and two hundred and forty acres in Clarke county. He has come into possession of all of his land since arriving here in 1881 and the extent of his holdings is proof of his energy and business ability. He raises the usual crops but also gives a great deal of attention to raising stock of a high grade and owns a pedigreed Norman horse.

Mr. West was married in Knox county, Illinois, in 1873 to Miss Lydia Ellen Clawson, who was born in 1855 in Auglaize county, Ohio, but who removed with the family to Knox county, Illinois, as a child. Several of her brothers are now living in Richland township, this county. Mr. and Mrs. West have become the parents of seven children: Oscar, of Long Creek township, married Blanche Fullerton, by whom he has seven children. Asa, who is farming in Richland township, married Miss Ella Ramsey, and they have one son living and lost a daughter, who died at the age of nine years. Franklin died when seventeen months old. Amos, who is at home, married Miss Nellie Ramsey, and they have lost two children. Huldah, who is living in Richland township, is the wife of Perry Emley, and they have two daughters. Samuel, a farmer of Richland township, married Miss Bertha Woods, by whom he has two sons and a daughter. Everett is at home.

Mr. West is a democrat and for twenty years has served as school treasurer of district No. 1, his long continuance in the office proving



his efficiency. Fraternally he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Grand River, of which his son Amos is also a member. Both he and his wife are identified with the Christian church, the teachings of which constitute the guiding rules of their lives. Mr. West is thoroughly progressive and up-to-date, and these qualities are manifested not only in the many improvements which he has made upon his farm but also in his willingness to cooperate with movements seeking the advancement of his community along material or moral lines.

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### BERT L. AND EDITH (HENDRICKSON) EIKER.

Bert L. and Edith (Hendrickson) Eiker, both natives of Iowa and residents of Leon, were married August 28, 1907, and have one daughter, Edith. Mrs. Eiker is a registered graduate nurse, having received her training in the Nurses' Training School of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and the Post Graduate Training School for Nurses of Chicago, Illinois, graduating from the latter institution in 1905. Dr. Eiker is a graduate of Rush Medical College, Chicago, and has been engaged in general practice in Decatur county, Iowa, since his graduation in 1896.

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### DANIEL ANDERSON.

Since February 12, 1900, Daniel Anderson has been postmaster of Lamoni and in that time the business of the office has increased nearly two hundred per cent. He was born in La Salle county, Illinois, on the 8th of June, 1867, a son of Andrew K. and Inger Anderson, both of whom were born near Stavanger, Norway. The birth of the father occurred on the 24th of June, 1832, and that of the mother on the 17th of January, 1836. In 1857 both crossed to the new world, sailing on the same ship to Quebec. Later both went to Chicago and on the 5th of July, 1857, they were married in La Salle county, Illinois. Their acquaintance dated from their childhood, as they resided in the same locality in Norway. The father is a director of the State Savings Bank of Lamoni and is a man of much business ability. They were the parents of eight children, one of whom died in infancy, the others being: Andrew, a resident of

Lamoni, who, in connection with his brother Oscar operates several hundred acres of land in Fayette township; Mrs. Anna A. Dancer, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work; Daniel; Benjamin M., a resident of Independence, Missouri, who is a traveling salesman for the Carpenter Paper Company of Omaha; Oscar, a banker of Lamoni, who is also an extensive land owner and who is mentioned elsewhere in this work; David A., a graduate of the State University of Iowa who has the degree of Ph. D., and who is a member of the faculty of the State University of Washington; and Nellie M., at home, who graduated from the local high school and who is also a graduate of Graceland College.

Daniel Anderson was about five years old when in March, 1872, the family removed from Ottawa, Illinois, to Decatur county, Iowa, locating in the precinct where Lamoni now stands. He attended the local high school and then turned his attention to farming until 1900, when he was made postmaster of Lamoni. He has since held that office and the fact that he has been reappointed under various presidents is incontrovertible proof of the satisfactoriness of his service. During the fifteen years that he has been postmaster the business of the office has increased nearly two hundred per cent and there are four rural mail routes and a mail messenger route between Togo and Lamoni and in the office itself employment is furnished to an assistant postmaster, two clerks and a substitute.

In December, 1888, Mr. Anderson married Miss M. Annie Scott, who was born in Nebraska City, Nebraska, but was taken to Plano, Illinois, when a child. Her parents, John and Sarah Scott, both natives of England, emigrated to the United States in 1866 and in 1881 became residents of Lamoni. The father was foreman in the Herald Publishing House from 1886 until 1896, but both he and his wife have gone to their reward. A brother of Mrs. Anderson passed away in 1889 when nineteen years of age, but she has three sisters living, namely: Mrs. Carrie Willis, residing in Lamoni; Mrs. H. L. Ferguson, who is living in Norwalk, Iowa; and Lorna M. Scott, who is the postmaster's capable assistant. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have become the parents of three children: Helen, now Mrs. J. A. Willey, of Burlington, Iowa; A. Scott, a student in the State University of Iowa; and Andrew Kenneth, who died when but nineteen months old.

Mr. Anderson is a republican and has always taken much interest in the success of the party, doing all in his power to insure its victory at the polls. He is a deacon in the Reorganized Church of Latter

Day Saints and for nineteen years was a member of the board of trustees of Graceland College, a church school at Lamoni. His personal characteristics are such that he has won warm friends and as an official he is very popular, since he is at once highly efficient and also uniformly courteous and accommodating.

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### J. C. COZAD.

J. C. Cozad is a young man of sound judgment and executive ability and has successfully filled the office of cashier of the Decatur Savings Bank since the organization of the institution. A native son of the county, he was born in Morgan township in 1883, of the marriage of Jacob A. and Sarah J. (Hubbard) Cozad. The father was born in Indiana but in 1856, when about twelve years old came to Decatur county, Iowa, with his parents, Alice and Emeline (Swank) Cozad, likewise natives of the Hoosier state. They settled in Morgan township, entering land from the government. They continued to reside until called by death. Jacob A. Cozad was reared upon the home farm and knew by experience the hardships of pioneer life. In his young manhood he enlisted in the Union army, as did three of his brothers, John S., Aaron A. and James. They were all living in Decatur county at the time but enlisted in Missouri regiments. Although they participated in many hard-fought engagements all lived to return from the war. Jacob A. Cozad passed away when fifty-eight years of age and his wife died in July, 1913, upon the homestead, which comprises two hundred and eighty acres of excellent land. Both were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and did all that they could to further its work.

J. C. Cozad, who is one of a family of six children, spent his boyhood days upon his father's farm and received that excellent home training which develops the virtues of industry, perseverance and integrity. He was given good educational opportunities, attending the public schools, the Leon high school and Highland Park College at Des Moines. For seven years he engaged in teaching school and during the greater part of that time was an instructor in high schools. In May, 1908, he decided to turn his attention to other lines of endeavor and assisted in organizing the Decatur Savings Bank of Decatur City, which was capitalized for ten thousand dollars. The first president of the institution was J. H. Hill and the first cashier our subject, who still holds that position. The bank

has enjoyed a steady growth and in 1912 its capitalization was increased to twenty-five thousand dollars. The institution transacts a general banking business and has gained the full confidence of the public as its methods are above question and are calculated to safeguard the interests of depositors and at the same time promote the development of the bank.

Mr. Cozad married Miss Vanetta Wasson, who was born in this county and is a daughter of H. F. and Hattie (Mullinix) Wasson, residents of Lineville, Iowa. To this union has been born one child, La Verne. Mr. Cozad is a democrat but has never sought to figure prominently in public affairs. He has concentrated his energies upon his business and much of the credit for the success of the Decatur Savings Bank is due to him as he has in large measure determined its policy since its organization.

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### CHARLES F. CHURCH.

Charles F. Church, of Lamoni, who for the greater part of the past eighteen years has represented the Rock Island Sash & Door Works as a traveling salesman, has resided in Lamoni for forty-two years and is held in high esteem by his fellow citizens. He was born on the 15th of May, 1860, at Loda, Iroquois county, Illinois, a son of Horace Church, whose father was Caleb Church. The ancestry has been traced back to Earl Rognwald, who was king of Norway in A. D. 900, Charles F. Church being his descendant in the thirty-fifth generation. William, the first earl of Warren and Surrey, married Princess Gundred, a daughter of William the Conqueror, who was a descendant in the seventh generation from the aforementioned Earl Rognwald. William, earl of Warren and Surrey, died in 1088 and his wife passed away in 1085. The coat of arms of the earl of Warren and Surrey is well known in heraldry. The Warren line runs through William de Warren, earl of Warrenne in Normandy, to Walter de St. Martin, who married a daughter of a Norman baron of Danish extraction. The name remains de Warren to the twentieth generation. John de Warren, Esquire, of the nineteenth generation, was born in 1414 and married Isabelle, a daughter of Sir John Stanley, K. G. It is recorded that in May, 1496, William Warren of the twenty-first generation died, which shows that the prefix "de" had been dropped by that time. Richard Warren, of the twenty-seventh generation, was born in England, but emigrated to



America on the Mayflower and signed the famous compact of the passengers of that ship. His wife and two sons and five daughters came to the new world on the ship, Anne, in July, 1623. He passed away at Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1628. In 1635 his daughter Elizabeth was married at Plymouth, Massachusetts, to Richard Church, who was born in England in 1608. In 1630 he emigrated to Boston and was well known in the early history of that city. He was a man of much ability and of considerable wealth. He served in the Pequoit war, holding the rank of sergeant, and his second son, Benjamin, won considerable note as a soldier in that war. Charles F. Church, our subject, is of the eighth generation of the descendants of Richard and Elizabeth (Warren) Church.

Horace Church, the father of our subject, was born October 25, 1811, at Hopkinton, Washington county, Rhode Island, and taught school in early manhood for a number of years. He became a resident of Decatur county in 1873, arriving at Leon in August of that year. After remaining there a week he removed to New Buda, where he resided during the winter, but on the 28th of February, 1874, he removed to the Colony Farm in Fayette township, where he operated rented land for seven years. At the end of that time the settlement of Lamoni was started and he removed to the new town, where he continued to reside until he passed away April 21, 1892, when he was almost eighty-one years of age. He was an elder in the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints and while residing in Michigan, where he lived for a number of years previous to removing to Decatur county, he was local president. After taking up his abode in Lamoni he was still quite active in the work of the church although advanced in years. He retained his faculties fully until past seventy-five years of age and was a man of keen mentality. His wife, who was in her maidenhood Miss Sallie Eleanor Bissell, died at Lamoni on the 2d of October, 1907, when almost eighty-seven years of age, as she was born on the 4th of November, 1820. In early life she was a member of the Presbyterian church, and her husband belonged to the Seventh Day Baptist church, but about 1840, while living in Ohio, both became interested in the work of the Latter Day Saints. Subsequently, while residing in Michigan, they learned of the Reorganized Church, of which they became members. To their union were born nine children, of whom four grew to maturity and of whom three survive. Those besides our subject are: Edward C. Church and Mrs. Asa S. Cochran, both residents of Lamoni.

When four years of age Charles F. Church was taken by his parents to Michigan, the family home being maintained for about

ten years at Hillyards, Allegan county, that state. He attended the public schools there and continued his education in Decatur county, Iowa, after the removal of the family to this state in 1873. He was the first clerk for "Sammy" H. Gurley, who was the postmaster of Lamoni, and the first general merchandise merchant in the town, and as he became a resident of Lamoni when it was first settled, Mr. Church remembers many facts of interest concerning the earliest history of the town. The first hardware store was owned by Hon. Thos. Teale and Henry Wheeling was the first hardware clerk. The first marriage solemnized there was that of C. D. Hammer and Lillie Brown, who are now residing at Creston, Iowa. The first birth in Lamoni was that of Lamoni Berta White, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Vol White, who are now living at Independence, Missouri.

Mr. Church did not remain in the employ of Mr. Gurley long and was for some time employed in the lumberyard at Lamoni. Subsequently he became a house painter and decorator and was for thirteen years a contractor in those lines, employing a number of men. Still later he was engaged with his mother, his father having died, in the mercantile business, the firm name being the Bee Hive Furnishing House, S. E. Church & Son, proprietors. They dealt in furniture and wallpaper, also carried a line of musical instruments and likewise conducted an undertaking business. They were affected by the hard times of 1893, but were able to continue in business, as their policy was a conservative one and as their methods were such as made for a steady normal growth. However, in 1897, the business was sold and for the past seventeen years Mr. Church has traveled as a commercial salesman in the states of Iowa, Illinois, Missouri and Kansas. He visits the chief jobbing centers and also a number of the smaller towns, and enjoys a nice business.

Mr. Church was married in Lamoni to Miss Laura L. Smith, a daughter of Norman W. Smith, a teacher and composer of music. For a number of years he has led the local choir in the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints and he is known outside of his home county as many of his compositions have been published and are appreciated by lovers of music. His daughter Laura L. was born on the 12th of September, 1862, at Hopkins, Michigan, and by her marriage has become the mother of four children. Lena was born February 8, 1884, and is now the wife of Wilbur E. Prall, who is employed in the State Savings Bank of Lamoni. They have three children, Carl, Dorothy and Lois. Arthur B., whose birth occurred on the 5th of August, 1896, is attending Graceland College and for some time has been perfecting himself in wireless telegraphy. He was the first one

in Lamoni to take up that work and has made much of his own apparatus. He has two antennæ and has become quite proficient in sending and receiving messages. His summer school work is done in a Marconi school at Valparaiso, Indiana, and he is preparing to take the United States government examination for amateurs and after passing that examination will receive a license and will become a member of the Wireless Association of America. He believes that there are great commercial possibilities in wireless telegraphy and all of his friends predict his success in his chosen field of work. Charles F., Jr., was born on the 2d of March, 1904, and is attending the public schools. Barton, whose natal day was the 4th of December, 1908, died in infancy.

Mr. Church has consistently supported the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise, but has not desired to hold public office. He has taken an active part in the work of the Reorganized Church of the Latter Day Saints and for years has been a deacon in the local branch. He owns a beautiful home in Lamoni near the Children's Home and has taken much pleasure in remodeling his residence and making it thoroughly modern. He represents an ancient and distinguished family and has manifested admirable traits of character which have gained him the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens, while his business ability has enabled him to achieve success financially.

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### GUY P. ARNOLD.

For many years Guy P. Arnold was actively engaged in agricultural pursuits and gained a gratifying measure of success as a farmer. He is now living retired in Garden Grove, enjoying the fruits of his former toil. He has resided in Decatur county for over fifty years, has always taken much interest in local history and is now president of the Decatur County Historical Society. The birth of Mr. Arnold occurred in Seneca county, Ohio, March 6, 1843, and he is a son of Sylvanus Arnold, who was born in Baileytown, Seneca county, New York. He engaged in merchandizing and farming in Iowa and later followed those occupations in California, where he passed away in 1866 when sixty-five years old. He left a large tract of land in that state. His father, John Arnold, was a son of Sylvanus Arnold, of Trenton, New Jersey. The family is English but has been represented in New England for two hundred years. It is probable that Benedict Arnold was a member of the same family as our

subject. The mother of Guy P. Arnold was in her maidenhood Lucretia Baker and was a daughter of Samuel Baker, a veteran of the Revolutionary war. He was born in Connecticut of English descent and passed away in Steuben county, New York. His daughter Lucretia was born at Lake Keuka, that county, and died in Decatur county, Iowa, when eighty-six years old. She became the mother of two sons, but the brother of our subject has passed away.

Guy P. Arnold accompanied his father to Iowa county, Iowa, in June, 1853, when ten years of age and the following year the family located in Garden Grove township. Our subject attended the public schools of Decatur county and also pursued a high-school course, thus preparing himself for taking an intelligent part in the life of his community. He decided to devote his energies to farming and was very successful as an agriculturist, becoming the owner of several hundred acres of land in Decatur county. He gave considerable attention to stock-raising and owned a valuable herd of high grade shorthorn cattle. For a number of years he has lived retired in Garden Grove, as he has accumulated a competence.

In 1875 Mr. Arnold married Miss Elsie Howes, who was born in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Howes. She is descended from Revolutionary stock and her ancestry is traced back to Elder Brewster. Her parents removed to Wisconsin, where they lived for many years, but in 1873 they settled in Decatur county, Iowa. Mrs. Arnold was a sincere Christian and a loyal member of the Episcopal church. She was a devoted wife and mother and her demise, which occurred in 1898, was an irreparable loss to her family. To Mr. and Mrs. Arnold were born four children: H. G., a farmer and stockman residing in Garden Grove; Helen, the wife of E. J. Lovett, of Garden Grove; Ethel, who married H. C. Culver, of Garden Grove township; and John Dent, a senior in the State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts at Ames.

Mr. Arnold is an independent democrat and has been quite active in local political circles. His ability and integrity is recognized by his fellow citizens and he represented his district in the twenty-third general assembly of Iowa. Fraternally he holds membership in the Masonic order and in the Knights of Pythias and is popular not only in those organizations but also in the community at large. He is president of the Decatur County Historical Society, which has done so much to preserve the records of the early days of the county, and he has written a number of interesting articles on local history, some of which appear in the historical volume of this work.



# INDEX

Ackerley, A. L. ....	152	Brown, J. N. ....	40
Akers, W. H. ....	306	Brown, J. R. ....	194
Albaugh, Theodore ....	227	Burchett, A. A. ....	396
Alexander, E. H. ....	326	Burgess, S. A. ....	28
Alexander, W. A. ....	231	Burnett, John ....	203
Anderson, Daniel ....	411		
Anderson, Oscar ....	170	Campbell, G. P. ....	54
Anderson, William ....	288	Campbell, J. C. ....	229
Arney, J. V. ....	387	Campbell, W. H. ....	86
Arnold, G. P. ....	417	Carrel, James ....	386
Arnold, H. G. ....	30	Chastain, F. E. ....	89
Ashbach, William ....	142	Chastain, J. M., Sr. ....	158
Ashburn, J. M. ....	310	Cherry, J. O. ....	11
		Church, C. F. ....	414
Badham, W. G. ....	44	Churchill, T. A. ....	151
Bailey, Joseph ....	70	Clark, John ....	336
Banta, Elijah ....	217	Cozad, A. A. ....	117
Barger, B. D. ....	140	Cozad, J. C. ....	413
Barr, C. W. ....	404	Cozad, J. H. ....	269
Barrows, C. H. ....	322	Cozad, W. C. ....	239
Bathe, G. R. ....	255	Craig, Eli ....	205
Bathe, I. L. ....	238	Crees, J. F. ....	234
Bell, E. E. ....	272	Creveling, C. E. ....	149
Bell, John ....	312	Creveling, Theodore ....	84
Bevins, Edwin ....	182	Crum, Jacob ....	280
Biggs, William ....	219		
Black, O. E. ....	366	Dancer, David ....	36
Blair, C. E. ....	329	Davis, G. E. ....	248
Blair, E. J. ....	400	Deemer, J. M. ....	376
Blair, F. B. ....	281	Derry, G. H. ....	274
Blair, G. W. ....	81	Dillon, C. W. ....	334
Blair, W. W. ....	114	Dobozy, Emery ....	370
Polon, J. F. ....	302		
Bolon, R. C. ....	162	Edwards, S. A. ....	305
Bonnett, Frank ....	328	Eiker, B. L. and Edith ....	411
Bowman, F. B. ....	291	Estes, O. P. ....	353
Boyd, C. A. ....	290	Evans, J. H. ....	320
Boyd, John ....	126		
Brenaman, Peter ....	324	Farquhar, G. R. ....	367
Brenizer, Theophilus ....	78	Fierce, C. F. ....	298
Briggs, E. W. ....	293	Fierce, E. W. ....	185
Brown, A. C. ....	14	Foreman, G. S. ....	133
Brown, G. V. ....	284	Foxworthy, O. W. ....	42
Brown, J. D. ....	18	France, Charles ....	296

France, W. A. ....	154	McBroom, J. G. ....	384
Frazier, O. L. ....	107	McClaran, J. E. ....	323
Frost, J. W. ....	258	McCutchan, Randolph .....	398
Fullerton, T. A. ....	357	McDiffit, James .....	174
		McDonald, Malay .....	216
Gammon, R. H. ....	390	McGinnis, V. R. ....	5
Garrett, B. W. ....	72	McGraw, James .....	372
Gates, S. A. ....	32	McGuire, G. G. ....	395
Gaunt, E. W. ....	63	McIntosh, William .....	155
Gill, J. F. ....	51	McKibben, J. O. ....	116
Grenawalt, Isaac .....	368	McLaughlin, R. E. ....	403
Grenawalt, W. A. ....	292	McMorris, J. F. ....	67
Griffith, U. G. ....	256	McWilliams, A. A. ....	277
Grimes, M. F. ....	260	McWilliams, J. F. ....	309
Gunsolley, J. A. ....	263	Machlan, W. A. ....	381
		Mallette, C. D. ....	171
Haag, A. M. ....	192	Mallory, Grant .....	297
Haas, J. P. ....	106	Manchester, W. R. ....	300
Hagen, J. F. ....	360	Mannasmith, M. E. ....	379
Hagen, L. H. ....	161	Martin, J. H. ....	26
Hamilton, E. P. ....	262	Mather, J. W. ....	79
Hammer, R. A. ....	362	Mather, W. J. ....	58
Harmon, R. J. ....	314	Maxwell, J. P. ....	138
Harvey, J. F. ....	45	Midgorden, O. H. ....	167
Harvey, J. W. ....	120	Miller, Jefferson .....	223
Hazlet, James .....	139	Milligan, J. A. ....	224
Hazlet, W. H. ....	282	Mills, W. H. ....	348
Hedlund, E. N. ....	373	Moon, C. W. ....	143
Hill, G. C. ....	359		
Hill, O. J. ....	180	Neveln, E. W. ....	408
Hollinger, J. M. ....	392	Newcomb, F. W. ....	119
Hollister, E. C. ....	160	Nicholson, D. F. ....	330
Holloway, L. G. ....	345	Nish, John .....	241
Holt, Lewis .....	383	Noftsgcr, A. M. ....	136
Hopkins, W. A. ....	198	Norman, B. A. ....	189
Horner, J. B. ....	108	Northrup, A. C. ....	85
Hurst, J. W. ....	175		
Hurst, S. W. ....	206	Ordway, F. D. ....	342
		Ordway, M. W. ....	308
Jamison, L. G. ....	210		
Johnston, G. O. ....	215	Peck, O. L. ....	34
Jones, J. F. ....	335	Phelps, Myron .....	61
Judd, Newton .....	316	Piercy, C. R. ....	278
		Pitkin, W. W. ....	276
Keller, C. M. ....	407	Poland, Peter .....	99
Kelly, C. W. ....	50		
Kerrins, T. F. ....	265	Radnich, A. F. ....	113
Keshlear, J. C. ....	259	Rains, Thomas .....	318
Kindred, James .....	33	Reed, G. P. ....	130
King, J. W. ....	315	Reed, W. E. ....	100
		Rew, O. M. ....	213
Latta, J. L. ....	350	Rhodes, C. T. ....	184
Latta, W. J. ....	344	Rhodes, Jacob .....	202
Layton, H. R. ....	125	Richardson, Royal .....	354
Lee, W. E. ....	347	Robertson, J. T. ....	394
Lorey, F. L. ....	270	Robinson, J. H. ....	271
Lovell, W. G. ....	402	Rowell, J. W. ....	124

# INDEX

421

Sankey, E. J. ....	64	Thompson, M. F. ....	10
Scott, Carter ....	103	Thompson, M. J. ....	53
Scott, W. E. A. ....	388	Thorp, Charles ....	17
Shakespeare, Samuel ....	377	Townsend, E. W. ....	391
Shewmaker, Elba ....	7	Turner, Robert ....	24
Shields, W. H. ....	247	Turpen, M. M. ....	186
Shira, E. L. ....	15		
Slauter, D. R. ....	122	Varga, Francis ....	250
Smith, A. H. ....	144	Varga, Stephen ....	195
Smith, George ....	63		
Smith, H. C. ....	46	Wailes, J. W. ....	134
Smith, John ....	244	Walker, Marietta ....	196
Smith, Joseph ....	90	Walker, S. F. ....	211
Smith, J. R. ....	8	Walton, Joseph ....	187
Spargur, J. W. ....	82	Warnock, W. S. ....	266
Sparling, H. W. ....	12	Weld, O. L. ....	240
Stearns, E. O. ....	268	Wernitch, Edward ....	246
Stebbins, H. A. ....	176	West, J. A. ....	409
Stephens, L. N. ....	105	West, W. R. ....	380
Stolberg, John ....	232	Wiley, S. P. ....	31
Stookey, M. F. ....	168	Williams, G. H. ....	157
Stover, J. H. ....	59	Wilson, J. A. ....	225
Stuteville, Samuel ....	406	Wion, Henry ....	374
Sutherland, T. A. ....	341	Wion, J. L. ....	333
Teale, F. E. ....	71	Young, I. P. ....	364
Teale, Thomas ....	131	Young, W. H. ....	101
Thomas, John ....	166	Young, W. M. ....	242
Thompson, Emory ....	294	Youngs, Elbert ....	228

2503















